

Internet Filtering Options Analysis: An Interim Report

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Introduction

The filtering software market has expanded in the last several years in response to three perceptions. One, the increased fear of sexual harassment cases in the workplace and the belief that Internet use can create a “hostile work environment.” Two, worries of lost productivity in the workplace due to employee use of the Internet for non-business reasons. Three, the ongoing fear of the effect of pornography on children and the belief that the Internet has become a stalking ground for child pornographers and child molesters.

In response to these concerns, filtering products are primarily designed for home, business and school use. Few of the filtering products actually market to libraries. They recognize the difficulty of marketing to a market that puts so much emphasis on free speech and public access to information. Parents are not particularly concerned about First Amendment issues when it comes to protecting their children from sexual predators. And employers are primarily concerned about the 30-40% of lost productivity (as reported by filtering companies).

The filtering issues faced by public libraries are different from employers and parents. As a public forum, libraries are obligated to respect the First Amendment and most librarians, unlike parents and employers, do not wish to be the watchdog for their patron’s use of the Internet.

The purpose of this report is to provide the librarian with an overview of the filtering products currently on the market. It is not meant to suggest that libraries should filter Internet access, only that if you choose to do so, they should be well-informed of the strengths and weaknesses of the different products currently available. This project has been funded by The State Library of California and administered through the InFoPeople Project. Holly Hinman, the Project Coordinator of InFoPeople, has directed the work of the author throughout the evaluation of these products.

Interim Report

The evaluation of filtering products is not yet complete. This Interim Report will focus on nine server-based products. The nine products evaluated were culled from a group of over 50 products, 13 of whom have gone out of business, six of whom monitor but don’t filter, three of whom are “controlled access” products (don’t filter but instead pre-select allowable websites to be searched), 17 of which are stand-alone computer products and 13 of which are server-based.

The Task

The task of filtering the Internet is enormous. It is at least as overwhelming a task as indexing the Web. Alta Vista, one of the leading search engine companies, is a multi-million dollar company that has committed 28 top of the line Digital AlphaServer 8400 5/440’s super computers with 8 gigabytes of memory and costing roughly \$35,000,000 each to the task of indexing the web. These machines use a 25 Gigabyte per second connection to the Internet,

and index content 24 hours per day.¹ Most filtering companies are not multi-million dollar companies. They don't have anywhere near the resources of a company like Alta Vista. Yet, the filtering companies claim they can block 90% of inappropriate Internet content while Alta Vista claims they can only index 38% of the web.

Matrix.Net reports there are over 130 Million web sites in existence today². Some suggest that the Internet is doubling every year.³ Filtering companies have agreed to take on the challenging of reviewing those 130 Million pages and determining which pages contain "inappropriate content." The definition of "inappropriate content" varies from person to person and company to company. Each filtering company uses a different strategy for sorting out the educational and productive pages from those that are inappropriate for children or a waste of time for their employees, or both.

The lack of definitions and highly subjective nature of descriptions of web pages contributes to the challenge filtering companies face when it comes to providing filters that would accommodate public libraries. The ideal library filter would not block constitutionally protected speech and would only block "child pornography" or content that meets the legal definition of "obscenity." When it comes to library patrons that are minors, this ideal filter would also need to block "material that is harmful to minors ("harmful matters"). Recognizing that the distinction between content that is Constitutionally protected and what is harmful to children is subjective and volatile is undoubtedly the reason filtering companies don't consider public libraries one of their prime markets.

Having released themselves from the need to service public libraries whose legal predicament is much too murky, the filtering companies are free to devise filters based on language that works for their target audience – parents, employers and schools. Therefore, you'll never see a category of websites defined as "harmful matters" or "child pornography". Some take the plunge and define websites as "obscene" but how closely those websites match the legal definition is anyone's guess. And since none of the companies release the list of websites on their radar and the category into which they've been placed, the end user has no way of knowing whether the "obscene" sites include some Constitutionally protected sites or not.

Ultimately, what the Administrator of most filtering products has in hand is a set of categories, not a list of blocked or categorized websites. The websites (URLs and sometimes IP addresses) are hidden within each category. The filtering company makes their own determination of the category (or sometimes categories) into which the website should be placed. How a website comes to be categorized into one category or another is a fiercely protected, internal process unique to each filtering company. Once classified into their categories, the web pages are delivered to the end user only when their filter profile has been set to allow it. How the filtering company determines what category a page belongs in is very important and highly subjective. Yet the filtering companies refuse to release information

¹ Christopher D. Hunter, "Filtering the Future?: Software Filters, Porn, PICS, and the Internet Content Conundrum", Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, 1999, page 38.

² www.matrix.net

³ <http://dimacs.rutgers.edu/TechnicalReports/abstracts/1999/99-11.html>

about how a web page is classified⁴ and they refuse to release lists of websites that fall within each category, claiming the information as proprietary. The users of filters then must rely on their secret classification system and their often sparse descriptions⁵ of what types of sites they've put into each category.

The end-user of a filtering product is forced to trust the judgment of the filtering companies to classify the entire Internet on their behalf. To the extent that anyone uses a filter to block Internet content is to place the traditional role of librarians, trained to catalog and select material, into the hands of a company using automated methods and probably far fewer than 100 employees to classify up to 3 billion Internet pages.

Managing Internet Access

Each filtering company provides a different set of tools to filter, monitor, or block portions of the Internet. While some products only monitor the use of the computer, these products are largely targeted for home use where children and parents share a computer and parents want to keep tabs on what their children are doing, without necessarily limiting their choices. I won't be addressing these products, nor non-filtering methods of managing Internet access such as privacy screens and private cubicles.

Most products that filter Internet pages give the local administrator a list of categories. The Administrator must decide, category by category, whether a category will be blocked or allowed. Some products offer additional options like allowing the Administrator to provide a warning about how the site was categorized. Other products allow the Administrator to monitor a category to determine if blocking is necessary. Each filtering product provides different capabilities to the Administrator. Some products are more simple and straightforward, and have fewer features. Others are extremely powerful, flexible and much more complex.

Blocking Pages

Most products leave the choice to block in the hands of the filter administrator who selects the categories to block. Most products provide some mechanism for overriding blocked pages either on-the-fly using an administrator password, or by adding sites to an "always allow" list which supercedes the block on a page caused by its classification (by the filter company) into a category that the administrator has chosen to block. This override capability provides the local administrator the ability to fix errors the filtering company has made in their classification process, or to conform the filtering company's classification system more closely to the administrator's *expectation* of the classification system.

⁴ Most companies use a combination of automated methods to find and classify the sites with some element of human review

⁵ See Appendix B for a list and/or description of each product's category list.

However, without the ability to preview a list of sites in each category, and only having the ability to react to over-blocking and under-blocking as it occurs is a heavy burden for the Administrator.

Over-Blocking and Under-Blocking

For libraries, over-blocking is probably a bigger concern than the occasional under-block. Under-blocks can be fixed by the Administrator who can generally add the URL to a local “block list” or add it to an existing filter category. Filter companies make it easy for end-users to advise them of “offensive” pages they missed because that helps them do their job. Essentially all end-users of a filtering product become volunteers for the filter company in their effort to classify the Internet.

However, it isn’t always so easy to convince a filter company to change how a site has been categorized even if the classification is clearly a mistake on their part. In general, filtering products would rather err on the side of caution, and that means using methods that sometimes sacrifice some legitimate content in an effort to corral more of the offensive content.

Blocking entire domains instead of portions of a domain are one way that over-blocking occurs. Not all products are able to classify websites down to the page level. The result is that an entire domain, www.yourISP.com might be blocked because someone has put up some pages on their website that were classified as nasty by a filter (for example www.yourISP.com/~jmsith/mynastypics.html).

Another cause of over-blocking arises from the resolution of URLs to IP addresses. Nowadays, numerous domains can share a single IP address. This is called “virtual hosting.” Like the person who put up those “nasty pics” described in the previous paragraph resulting in the entire domain being blocked, the same thing can happen when one person (or company) puts up offensive material and they are using an IP address shared by others on the same virtual host. When a filter comes along that blocks not only domain names, but also the IP address associated with blocked domains, the result is that every domain on that virtual host is blocked. The over-blocking occurring from this situation is substantial, and growing, because the use of virtual hosts is increasing.

The obvious fix is to configure the filters such that only domain names are blocked and not their associated IP addresses. The problem with that solution is that sophisticated users (16-year old boys) can access a blocked page by entering the IP address directly into the browser (instead of the domain name). Filtering companies have responded to this predicament in different ways. Some carry on as usual and accept the over-blocking as the price to pay to get at the ‘bad stuff.’ Others leave the resolution of URLs to IP addresses optional – the administrator can decide whether the problem is going to be one of over-blocking or under-blocking. And finally other products only block the URL (avoiding the virtual host problem) but don’t let users type IP addresses into the browser (preventing users from getting to blocked sites even when they know the IP address).

Blocking Protocols

In addition to blocking web pages and entire domains, protocols can be filtered and blocked too. In most cases, filtering products deal with filtering HTTP and HTTPS, which are the protocols associated with browsing the Internet. Many also filter FTP requests that can be used to download offensive content from the Internet to the local computer. ICQ and other instant messaging protocols can often be blocked, as can protocols associated with playing music and participating in online bulletin boards.

Another reason these protocols tend to be filtered is to discourage high-bandwidth use. Many of the instant messaging and streaming protocols (music and video playing) can monopolize an inordinate percentage of a library's Internet connection creating a slow connection for everyone else. Some libraries choose to restrict or forbid use of these protocols during certain hours (after school, for example). This kind of control over which protocols can be used by patrons, and when, can often be managed by a filtering program.

Restricted Access

Some filtering products filter top-level domains such as .com, .org or .edu. The most common use of this type of filtering is not to block any specific top-level-domains, but to limit access to certain ones. For example, perhaps an administrator would like to restrict the public access computer in the children's department to .edu and .gov sites. This can be done with certain filtering products.

Another form of restricted access is to limit the patron to "safe search engines" or "safe browsers." There are many such browsers and search engines including The Library Channel⁶, KidsClick!⁷ and the Librarian's Index to the Internet (LII)⁸. In most cases, using some type of restricted access will require some degree of blocking to prevent the end-user from escaping out of the restricted area.

Keyword Blocking

Keyword blocking as it was known a few years ago has largely fallen out of favor. In many cases, keyword blocking is offered as an option that can be enabled or disabled. Once enabled, it generally results in forbidding the end-user from typing certain keywords into the browser or search engine. In some products, keyword blocking still results in blocking all or some of a page. Some of the smaller filtering products designed for home use still use this technique. Such simplistic blocking mechanisms are less frequently used in the filtering products designed

⁶ <http://www.vimply.net/index1.html>

⁷ <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!/>

⁸ <http://lii.org/>

for business. Nonetheless, “keyword blocking” as traditionally defined⁹ is something a librarian will want to be able to “turn off.”

Warning or Deferring Pages

Some products provide the ability to warn users that a site has been classified in a certain way. Therefore, rather than blocking access to a page, the user is given the choice to proceed or not, with fair warning.¹⁰ Another product gives the administrator the option to permit users to save the URLs of their blocked pages to the filter company’s website so they can then look over the sites in the privacy of their own home.¹¹ Obviously such a feature is designed for the employee browsing at work whose access has been restricted to sites relevant to his company’s business. For visitors to the library who count on the library’s Internet connection as their only source of Internet access, such a feature isn’t very useful.

Customized Block and/or Warning Pages

Many filtering products give the Administrator the option of designing their own block page, or the message that will be displayed on the screen when the end-user bumps into a site in a certain category. If the page is blocked, it might be useful to utilize the custom block page to display the Library’s Internet Use Policy, along with instructions for what to do if the patron feels the filtering software inappropriately blocked the site.

One product¹² takes the ability to provide custom messages to the limit. A different custom message can be defined for a given user (or set of users), for different time periods, and for different categories of sites. Also, the message displayed will change depending on whether that end-user is to be blocked or just warned about the page.

Overriding Blocked Pages

When the filtering program provides for on-the-fly password overrides, the space to type in the override password is displayed right on the block page making it easy for Administrators to unblock the page for the patron. If the Administrator grants over-ride rights to Library Staff, they too could grant a patron access to a site when necessary. In many instances, however, Administrators do not grant this privilege to Library Staff.

While about half the products reviewed so far provide some kind of password over-ride feature, one product¹³ adds a degree of flexibility no other company does. Instead of simply

⁹ This paragraph addresses a strict definition of “keyword blocking” but be advised that even the most complex algorithms used by filtering companies are ultimately based on keywords so in a broader sense, all the products provide some type of keyword blocking.

¹⁰ SmartFilter provides this capability in their “coach” feature.

¹¹ Websense provides this capability in their “defer to after work” feature.

¹² SmartFilter allows you define a different message to the end-user depending on the time of day they hit a site and whether they are set to have that site blocked, delayed or “coached.” The “delay” feature simply slows the speed with which the page loads. Categories can be set to “block,” “coach” or “delay” for different groups of users.

¹³ IPrism provides extensive over-ride capabilities on the fly. When a blocked page is hit, the administrator can choose to override the site, the category or turn off blocking entirely for that user, a range of users or all users. This can all be done at the end-users desk, it isn’t necessary to return to the computer room.

allowing the Administrator to over-ride the site so the end-user can view the website for a few minutes (which is how most overrides work), one product allows the administrator to unblock the site for as many minutes as necessary. The Administrator can unblock the entire *category* for any number of minutes, or unblock the entire category for a certain range of users or workstations for any number of minutes.

Keeping the Patron Informed

The information displayed on the screen when a patron runs into a blocked page is going to contribute to their filtered Internet access experience either positively or negatively. One way to provide the end-user with a positive filtered experience is to give the end-user as much information as possible. Filtering products always let the end-user know when a page has been blocked. (This is different from restricted access products that pre-select sites to search and don't mention what's being omitted.) When the filter program hits a blocked page, it generally advises the end-user of the block and provides the URL of the blocked site on the "block page" displayed to the user. Some products also display the block categories that apply to the site or some other information that explains how the site came to be blocked¹⁴. When designing a custom block page, it is important to consider the information that will be most useful for the end-user to have when their page is blocked. It is useful to ensure that the blocked URL is displayed, the relevant block categories are displayed, the library's Internet Use Policy is displayed (or at least referenced) and some instructions for recourse provided ("See Your Librarian if You Wish to be Granted Access to this Blocked Site").

Filtering Products Available Today

There are two major classes of filtering products: server-based and stand-alone. The stand-alone products are installed on a single computer and control how Internet access will be managed at that computer. Usually more than one filter profile (the rules to be applied by the filtering product) can be established allowing for different users using the same computer. Typically such a scenario is at home, where one computer is used for by the entire family. The adults don't want to be blocked but they want the teenager's use of the Internet to be restricted, and their elementary school age child's use of the Internet to be even more restricted.

Many of the filtering companies provide a version for home¹⁵, a version for school and a version for business. Rarely is there a "library" version but the school or business product can usually be customized for the library setting. Of the 13 stand-alone products I've identified, only 9 of them are stand-alone only. The other 4 are stand-alone products which also have a server-based version provided by the same company.

¹⁴ iGear displays the DDR rating. Dynamic Document Review (DDR) is a rating applied to a web page based on certain trigger words associated with a "dictionary." iGear uses "dictionaries" instead of "categories." If you've set your I-Gear filter to block the Sex Acts dictionary, then it will block not only the websites classified by I-Gear for this category, but also any other sites that come along (that iGear hasn't yet classified), that reach a certain threshold of trigger words found in the Sex Acts dictionary. The rating of those trigger words is the DDR Rating for the page.

¹⁵ See Consumer Reports review of filtering products appropriate for consumer use. (<http://www.consumerreports.org/Special/ConsumerInterest/Reports/0103fill.html>)

Server-based filters are used in network settings. They are installed on central servers and the filter profiles are established for users, groups of users, specific machines (IP Addresses) or groups of machines (network segments). Server-based programs are generally much more powerful, flexible, complex, and expensive.

In the server-based category, most products run on a variety of platforms. Only three of the server-based products identified for this interim report require a non-Windows platform¹⁶. These non-Windows products have not yet been evaluated. Nine of the remaining server-based products have been evaluated and the results published in this report.

Products	Server	Stand-Alone	Not Available on Windows	Evaluated
BAIR Filtering System		X		
BizGuard	X	X	X	
Children's Dept.	X	X	X	
CyberPatrol	X	X		X
CyberSentinel	X	X		
CyberSitter		X		
Disk Tracy Search & Detect		X		
Guard Dog		X		
Gulliver's Garden		X		
If Not, If Only		X		
i-Gear	X			X
iPrism	X			X
iWay Patrol	X		X	
N2H2	X	X		X
NetNanny		X		
S4F Family Connect	X			X
SmartFilter	X			X
SOS Best Defense		X		
Web Inspector	X			X
We-Blocker		X		
WebSense	X			X
X-Stop	X	X		X

¹⁶ BizGuard Proxy Server by Guard One (<http://www.guardone.com/01.htm#3>) requires an Apache web server to run, and I-Tech provides two Unix-based software and hardware solutions called Children's Dept., and I-Way Patrol. Children's Dept. is one of the rare filtering products that actually markets to libraries. (<http://www.itech-mke.com/cdept/>)

Testing Methodology

Each product was installed in a test lab environment where the Internet connection was via a cable modem. In most cases, the product was installed on a Micron ClientPro SE, (Pentium III, 500 MHz, 256MB RAM) running Microsoft NT Server 4.0 and MS-Proxy Server 2.0. The clients (user workstations) were Micron ClientPro DF701 machines (Pentium III, 550 MHz, 128MB RAM), one running Windows 98 and the other Windows NT Workstation 4.0.

Prior to each evaluation, both workstations and the server were re-imaged with a standard image that included a stable operating system with all patched applied consistent with current Microsoft recommendations.

For the initial test group, MS-Proxy versions of the products were used when available. Three tested products do not run with MS-Proxy. iPrism is an “internet appliance” meaning the software and hardware are both provided by the filtering company. Web Inspector did not run on MS Proxy as configured in our test environment, so it was installed on the NT Workstation. S4F is a remote proxy program requiring each workstation to be configured to use it though the machine running the program is accessed over the Internet.

Each product was installed per the filter company’s instructions. In two cases¹⁷, some of the features were not fully tested because of the absence of local DNS services in the test environment. When possible the test network was re-configured to accommodate the filter product. The goal was to see the product function at its best, not to foil it before it even got started.

Once installed, the product was configured in a manner that minimized the likelihood of over-blocking while still blocking commercial pornography sites. No attempt was made to interpret the filter categories for other sites that *someone* might consider “harmful to minors” like gambling, hate, bomb making, etc. Instead the goal was to restrict the blocking to commercial pornography only¹⁸.

Keyword blocking was always turned off, when it was an option to do so.

For testing over-blocking and under-blocking, two groups of 13 test sites were created.¹⁹ One group of sites, the Should Block sites, contained sexually explicit language and images and were all intended to lead you to an e-porn site (fee based). The other group of sites, the Should NOT Block sites, were selected for various reasons: political content, keywords that could be easily mistaken by filters, non-pornographic sexual material.

¹⁷ iGear and X-Stop required the server to run local DNS services in order to fully exploit all of its features. For the purposes of testing, DNS services were set up locally but the evaluation period was too short and not all testing was completed. Information provided about these two products has been supplemented by other people using it.

¹⁸ Because the definition of what must be blocked in order to comply with CIPA is subjective, “commercial pornography” was selected as a category of web content generally agreed to be inappropriate for children and of the type of content CIPA expects filtering products to block.

¹⁹ This testing process does not claim to be scientific. Only 31 sites were tested. See Appendix B for a complete list of sites used for testing.

After testing the 26 sites on the test sites list, a random search was done using Google²⁰. Five commercial pornography sites were randomly selected throughout the hit results including one in the first set of 10 hits displayed, the third, fifth, sixth and seventh.

Each filter was rated according to how well it blocked the Should Block sites, the Should Not Block Sites and the random Google search results (all of which should have been blocked).

A database of features was maintained throughout the testing process. In some cases, not all features in each category could be determined due to the limitations of the test environment. When a feature could not be confirmed one way or the other, the field was left blank or N/A was entered.

Description of Features Reviewed

For each product evaluation, information was collected pertaining to pricing and the filter company (Pricing and Company), blocking and block page options (Blocking), the over-blocking and under-blocking of the product when configured to block commercial pornography (Accuracy), the ease of use and flexibility of the program (Administration) and any other noteworthy features (Extras).

The following section provides a description of the data collected and how it was recorded.

Pricing and Company

Product Name: The name of the filter product.

Company: The name of the company who sells the filter product

Client/Server: Whether the product reviewed was server-based or stand-alone (client).

Purchase Price: Any one-time costs associated with buying the product.

Subscription Rate for 50 Users: The annual cost of using the product in a 50-workstation environment (50 machines being filtered).

Smallest Group License Price: The smallest increment for which a subscription can be purchased and the annual subscription cost for that number of workstations.

Requires Configuring Each Client: Whether or not each workstation to be filtered needs to be configured individually.

In Use by a Library Somewhere: The company was able to give me a library reference to call.

People Maintaining Site List: The number of people involved in the “human review” component of their classification operation. The number entered here is what the company reported to me. In many cases, these workers are part-time. The workers’ qualifications for doing this work is not addressed here.

Blocking

Can Disable Keyword Blocking: Whether or not “keyword blocking” can be turned off.

²⁰ “Pussy” was typed into the Google search engine.

Selectively Enable Categories: Whether or not Administrator can choose the categories they wish to block (or perhaps warn or monitor). If no, the filtering product has created their own “always block” list.

Blocked Site List is Viewable: If yes, the company allows end-users to see the URLs contained in each category.

Can Add Sites to Blocked Site List / Remove: Administrator can add sites to an “always block” or “always allow” list that will over-ride any other handling of the site based on its classification.

Can Modify Categorization of URL: Administrator can move a site from the category selected by the filter company to the category they think is more appropriate.

Can Add New Categories: Administrator can add new categories and populate the category with sites. Usually this means the new category (or categories) can also be selectively blocked (or warned or monitored).

Can Block Down to File Level: If yes, the filter product can block a portion of a website without having to block the entire domain.

Warn Versus Block Available: The Administrator can choose to warn end-users about how sites are classified, rather than block the pages.

Warn Available for Selective Categories: The Administrator can choose to warn end-users about how sites are classified in one category, while blocking other categories.

User Notified of Blocked Site: On the company’s default block page, the end-user is notified that a site they are trying to reach has been blocked.

User Provided URL of Blocked Site: On the company’s default block page, the end-user is provided the URL of the site that is being blocked.

Override Option on Blocked Page: On the company’s default block page, a password override option is displayed.

Frequency of Updates to Blocked Site List: How often the product is updated (automatically) with updated lists of newly categorized sites.

Hostnames Resolve to IP Addresses: Whether the site and its corresponding IP address are blocked.

Accuracy

Score on Should Block: Percentage of sites on the Should Block list that were actually blocked.

Score on Should NOT Block: Percentage of sites on the Should Not Block list that were actually left unblocked.

Overall Blocking Accuracy: Percentage of sites accurately blocked, or not, including the five randomly selected pornography sites.

Administration

Install Issues: Includes any comments about the installation process.

Uninstall Issues: Includes any comments about the de-installation process. In most cases, the product was not uninstalled.

Runtime Problems: Any problems encountered with the program including conflicts with other programs or the operating system were noted. Because the evaluation phase was so short, few of these problems were noted. In addition, the load on the test network environment is not representative to the load likely to be found in a public library.

Multiple User Profiles: Yes indicates filtering profiles can be created to accommodate different individual users, groups of users, workstations or ranges of IP addresses.

Profiles Based on NOS: Yes indicates the filtering profiles can be based on Windows, NT (and usually Novell) user groups.

Remote Administration: Yes indicates administration of the program can take place at some location other than the server console (for example through a browser).

Downstream Administration: Yes indicates that filter administrators can be established for different sections of the network. Each such Administrator can control which categories are selected, how block pages are configured and which over-rides will be used. When providing this kind of control over the filtering program to an individual user results in granting privileges beyond those needed to manage their local filter group, Downstream Administration is listed as No, but Remote Administration is Yes.

Extras

Session Time Outs: Information here relates to any available inactivity time outs or session controls

Protocol Blocking: Other protocols that can be filtered using this product, in addition to HTTP.

Time Restrictions: Time-related controls associated with the product.

Integration Notes: Platforms and products that can be used in combination with the filter product (or a variation of the product tested).

Logging and Reporting: Indicates how robust the reporting tools are. If “Basic”, then not much more than a log file is available to review. “Some Extras” indicates a few reports are available to run. “Robust” means there are many report options pre-defined for your use. “Custom Querying” means that there is a query tool provided for the Administrator to create and save custom queries.

Summary of Evaluation Results By Product

(link provided to products reviewed)

CyberPatrol

http://www.surfcontrol.com/products/cyberpatrol_for_education/product_overview/proxy.html

i-Gear

<http://enterprisesecurity.symantec.com/products/products.cfm?productID=40&PID=3220582>

i-Prism

http://www.stbernard.com/products_iprism-edu.asp

N2H2

<http://www.n2h2.com/solutions/workplace/proxy2.html>

S4F

<http://www.s4f.com/edover.asp>

SmartFilter

<http://www.securecomputing.com/index.cfm?skey=85>

Web Inspector

<http://www.elronsw.com/productfamily/webinspector.shtml>

WebSense

<http://www.websense.com/products/integrations/Proxy-WS.cfm>

X-Stop

<http://www.8e6technologies.com/products/xstop/ms45.html>

Cyber Patrol 5.0 for Microsoft Proxy Server

SurfControl

www.surfcontrol.com

(800) 828-2608

Pricing and Company

Purchase Price	Subscription Rate for 50 Users	Smallest Group License Price	Requires Configuring Each Client	In Use by a Library Somewhere	# People Maintaining Site List	Can Recommend Site List Changes to Company
	\$1,095	\$275/5	No	Yes		Yes

Comments on Pricing and Company: Surfwatch was bought out by CyberPatrol.

Pricing: Renewal rate is \$767 after first year (50 user level). Education, E-Rate, Multi-Year and other discounts available.

CyberPatrol 6.0, which features major changes, is due out in July.

Administration

Install Issues	Uninstall Issues	Runtime Problems	Multiple User Profiles	Profiles Based on NOS	Remote Administration	Downstream Administration	Can Customize Block Page
	N/A	None	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

Comments on Administration: Can set different policies for two time blocks: work time and everything else (leisure time). Administration was simple and straightforward.

Cyber Patrol 5.0 for Microsoft Proxy Server

SurfControl

www.surfcontrol.com

(800) 828-2608

Blocking

Blocking Controls								
Can Disable Keyword Blocking	Selectively Enable Categories	Blocked Site List is Viewable	Can Add/Remove Sites to Blocked Site List	Can Modify Categorization of URL	Can Add New Categories	Can Block Down to File Level	Warn Versus Block Available	Warn Available for Selective Categories
Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No

Default Block Page			Other Blocking Issues	
User Notified of Blocked Site	User Provided URL of Blocked Site	Over-ride Option on Block Page	Frequency of Updates to Blocked Site List	Hostnames Resolve to IP Addresses
Yes	No	No	Daily	Yes

Comments on Blocking:

Accuracy

Score on Should Block	Score on Should NOT Block	Overall Blocking Accuracy
77%	77%	74%

Comments on Accuracy:

Extras

Session Time Outs	Protocol Blocking	Time Restrictions	Integration Notes	Logging and Reporting
No	FTP, IRC	Yes	Also works with Novell Border Manager, Netscape Proxy Server and Microsoft ISA Server. Also have version for Mac networks, Novell and NT networks and all Windows platforms (in stand-alone mode)	Basic

Comments on Extras: optional to add attempts to access blocked sites to NT Event log.

i-Gear 3.5 for MS Proxy Server

Symantec Corporation / URLabs

www.symantec.com

(408) 517-8000

Pricing and Company

Purchase Price	Subscription Rate for 50 Users	Smallest Group License Price	Requires Configuring Each Client	In Use by a Library Somewhere	# People Maintaining Site List	Can Recommend Site List Changes to Company
\$26.25 (media)	\$950	\$217.50/10	No	Yes	Unavailable	Not without calling a rep

Comments on Pricing and Company:

Administration

Install Issues	Uninstall Issues	Runtime Problems	Multiple User Profiles	Profiles Based on NOS	Remote Administration	Downstream Administration	Can Customize Block Page
DNS issues			Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Comments on Administration: Very powerful but challenging to administer.

Can change priorities of permissions so that Workstation settings take priority, otherwise user settings take priority. Events priority order: Highest - Specific events, then Daily Events and then Default Events.

Numerous variables provided for customizing block.

Blocking

Blocking Controls								
Can Disable Keyword Blocking	Selectively Enable Categories	Blocked Site List is Viewable	Can Add/Remove Sites to Blocked Site List	Can Modify Categorization of URL	Can Add New Categories	Can Block Down to File Level	Warn Versus Block Available	Warn Available for Selective Categories
Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No

i-Gear 3.5 for MS Proxy Server

Symantec Corporation / URLabs

www.symantec.com

(408) 517-8000

Blocking (continued)

Default Block Page			Other Blocking Issues	
User Notified of Blocked Site	User Provided URL of Blocked Site	Over-ride Option on Block Page	Frequency of Updates to Blocked Site List	Hostnames Resolve to IP Addresses
Yes, and category and DDR score provided	Yes (can add words from DDR Dictionary that caused block too)	Yes, and category and DDR score provided	Daily	Yes

Comments on Blocking: Uses pre-defined site categorization but if a site isn't on the list yet, it performs on-the-fly analysis (DDR) based on trigger words associated with each category (dictionary).

Accuracy

Score on Should Block	Score on Should NOT Block	Overall Blocking Accuracy
Not Available	Not Available	Not Available

Comments on Accuracy:

Extras

Session Time Outs	Protocol Blocking	Time Restrictions	Integration Notes	Logging and Reporting
Inactivity Time Outs	HTTP and FTP	Yes	Proxy server version available for Sun Solaris version 2.5 or later, Red Hat Linux version 5.2 or later, and Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0. Also available as a transparent plug-in for either Check Point FireWall-1 for Sun Solaris version 2.5 or later and Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0 OR Microsoft Proxy Server. Caching currently is not supported for I-Gear 3.5 for FireWall-1.	Robust

Comments on Extras:

iPrism (Internet Appliance)

St. Bernard Software

www.stbernard.com

(877) 320-4800

Pricing and Company

Purchase Price	Subscription Rate for 50 Users	Smallest Group License Price	Requires Configuring Each Client	In Use by a Library Somewhere	# People Maintaining Site List	Can Recommend Site List Changes to Company
\$2,195	\$1,295	\$1295/50	No	Yes	50	Yes – Quick Submit

Comments on Pricing and Company: Purchase price includes hardware provided St. Bernard. Subscription rate includes maintenance of hardware, software updates and daily database updates.

This is the only company I talked to who actually claims to have 100% “human review”. Someone checks every page they categorize.

Quick Submit: handy feature to enable shortcut on your browser that easily submits site to the company for re-review. Most companies require you to send email or go to their website to request changes to categories or to add sites to block.

Administration

Install Issues	Uninstall Issues	Runtime Problems	Multiple User Profiles	Profiles Based on NOS	Remote Administration	Downstream Administration	Can Customize Block Page
Some	N/A	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Comments on Administration: I had a difficult time getting this product to work in my lab environment though I don’t think it was a function of the product itself. And the tech support at iPrism was impressive. This Internet appliance can be configured in a number of different ways (I set it up as a bridge so there would be essentially no burden on network bandwidth). It should, theoretically “pop” into your network pretty easily. I found this product to be one of the most powerful and flexible programs I reviewed. I wasn’t too impressed with the documentation and administrator interface. Discussions with librarians (who are not particularly technical) using iPrism convinced me, however, that my difficulty with the interface was probably just personal preference.

This is the only product that had true “downstream administration” where subnets can have their own filter administrator with control over how that subnet is filtered, and no control over the server itself, or other subnets.

iPrism (Internet Appliance)

St. Bernard Software

www.stbernard.com

(877) 320-4800

Blocking

Blocking Controls								
Can Disable Keyword Blocking	Selectively Enable Categories	Blocked Site List is Viewable	Can Add/Remove Sites to Blocked Site List	Can Modify Categorization of URL	Can Add New Categories	Can Block Down to File Level	Warn Versus Block Available	Warn Available for Selective Categories
Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Default Block Page		
User Notified of Blocked Site	User Provided URL of Blocked Site	Over-ride Option on Block Page
Yes	Yes, and category	Yes

Other Blocking Issues	
Frequency of Updates to Blocked Site List	Hostnames Resolve to IP Addresses
Daily	No

Comments on Blocking:

Accuracy

Score on Should Block	Score on Should NOT Block	Overall Blocking Accuracy
92%	92%	90%

Comments on Accuracy:

Extras

Session Time Outs	Protocol Blocking	Time Restrictions	Integration Notes	Logging and Reporting
No	Yes	Yes	Works with all networks	Robust + Custom Querying

Comments on Extras:

N2H2 Filtering for Microsoft Proxy Server 2.0

N2H2, Inc.

www.n2h2.com

(800) 971-2622

Pricing and Company

Purchase Price	Subscription Rate for 50 Users	Smallest Group License Price	Requires Configuring Each Client	In Use by a Library Somewhere	# People Maintaining Site List	Can Recommend Site List Changes to Company
	\$1,200	\$1200/50	No	Yes	60-120	Yes

Comments on Pricing and Company: Full Service Product Purchase Price: \$2995. Includes hardware and software that provides proxy and cache services in addition to filtering. Plus additional annual subscription fee based on # of computers being filtered (smallest 50 \$1200/year). Multi-year discounts available.

Administration

Install Issues	Uninstall Issues	Runtime Problems	Multiple User Profiles	Profiles Based on NOS	Remote Administration	Downstream Administration	Can Customize Block Page
Good documentation and easy to install.	N/A	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Comments on Administration: Can apply multiple filters to a person, least restrictive setting for a user is used.

Full Service Product has Password Override Option on the block page and provides downstream administration. For downstream administration, zones are created based on IP address ranges and administrators can be assigned to manage zones including making determinations about how filters are configured.

N2H2 Filtering for Microsoft Proxy Server 2.0

N2H2, Inc.

www.n2h2.com

(800) 971-2622

Blocking

Blocking Controls								
Can Disable Keyword Blocking	Selectively Enable Categories	Blocked Site List is Viewable	Can Add/Remove Sites to Blocked Site List	Can Modify Categorization of URL	Can Add New Categories	Can Block Down to File Level	Warn Versus Block Available	Warn Available for Selective Categories
Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Options for Default Block Page			Other Blocking Issues	
User Notified of Blocked Site	User Provided URL of Blocked Site	Over-ride Option on Block Page	Frequency of Updates to Blocked Site List	Hostnames Resolve to IP Addresses
Yes	Yes	No	daily	No - block domain names only

Comments on Blocking: This product is focused on the educational market. They market to libraries as well. As such, it only searches for content deemed objectionable in a school or library setting and doesn't deal with additional categories that businesses concern themselves with. Pages are categorized based on automated methods with some human review.

Accuracy

Score on Should Block	Score on Should NOT Block	Overall Blocking Accuracy
100%	85%	94%

Comments on Accuracy:

Extras

Session Time Outs	Protocol Blocking	Time Restrictions	Integration Notes	Logging and Reporting
No	No	No	Also have a version for Microsoft ISA Server 2000, Novell Internet Caching System. Have other products designed for ISPs and stand-alone product. Also have full-service solution that includes hardware.	Some Extras

Comments on Extras: Has an option to allow unfiltered access if N2H2 Filtering is unavailable.

S4F v.6.02 Remote Proxy Server

Family Connect, Inc.

www.familyconnect.com

(877) 787-3826

Pricing and Company

Purchase Price	Subscription Rate for 50 Users	Smallest Group License Price	Requires Configuring Each Client	In Use by a Library Somewhere	# People Maintaining Site List	Can Recommend Site List Changes to Company
	\$780	\$312/20	Yes	Yes		Yes

Comments on Pricing and Company: Each computer must have the software installed and then the browser is redirected to the s4f site to approve or disallow a page.

"Intelligent keyword search-string blocking," means you can't type in dirty phrases into the browser.

Claim to "meet government standards" for HR4577.

To request have to go to a website to ask for something to be blocked or unblocked
www.s4f.com/block and www.s4f.com/unblock

Administration

Install Issues	Uninstall Issues	Runtime Problems	Multiple User Profiles	Profiles Based on NOS	Remote Administration	Downstream Administration	Can Customize Block Page
No Comment	N/A		No	No	Yes	No	No

Comments on Administration: Block Categories are not optional. They are: pornographic or recreational nudity, sexually explicit language, criminal activity (hate speech, drugs, wagering, illegal weapons, crime instruction)

Browser compatibility: Using Netscape on NT and 98 and Explorer on NT block screen comes up requiring user to press X (or checkmark) to continue. Then the browser's standard "page cannot be found" messages comes up so you have to click on that to continue.

Some blocked pages cause block page to repeatedly come up. This requires clicking over and over on the check mark (on the block screen) in order to move on. Certain words typed into the browser cause the block screen to display. "Penis" and "child pornography" are both blocked.

S4F v.6.02 Remote Proxy Server

Family Connect, Inc.

www.familyconnect.com

(877) 787-3826

Blocking

Blocking Controls								
Can Disable Keyword Blocking	Selectively Enable Categories	Blocked Site List is Viewable	Can Add/Remove Sites to Blocked Site List	Can Modify Categorization of URL	Can Add New Categories	Can Block Down to File Level	Warn Versus Block Available	Warn Available for Selective Categories
No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No

Options for Default Block Page			Other Blocking Issues	
User Notified of Blocked Site	User Provided URL of Blocked Site	Over-ride Option on Block Page	Frequency of Updates to Blocked Site List	Hostnames Resolve to IP Addresses
Yes	Yes	Yes	Daily	Yes

Comments on Blocking:

Accuracy

Score on Should Block	Score on Should NOT Block	Overall Blocking Accuracy
92%	62%	81%

Comments on Accuracy:

Extras

Session Time Outs	Protocol Blocking	Time Restrictions	Integration Notes	Logging and Reporting
No	NNTP	No	N/A	Basic

Comments on Extras:

SmartFilter

Secure Computing

www.securecomputing.com

(800) 379-4944

Pricing and Company

Purchase Price	Subscription Rate for 50 Users	Smallest Group License Price	Requires Configuring Each Client	In Use by a Library Somewhere	# People Maintaining Site List	Can Recommend Site List Changes to Company
	\$1,250	\$1250/50	No	Yes	15-20	Yes

Comments on Pricing and Company:

30% discount on second year (if 2year subscription purchased)

50-99 users = \$25/user

100-249 users = \$16.90/user

250-499 users = \$10.60/user

Subscription price includes software for all platforms needed, Cyfin Reporter, updates, maintenance and 24hour tech support.

Administration

Install Issues	Uninstall Issues	Runtime Problems	Multiple User Profiles	Profiles Based on NOS	Remote Administration	Downstream Administration	Can Customize Block Page
Good documentation and straightforward install.	N/A	None	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

Comments on Administration: Each user might end up with multiple profiles. Precedence for how the profiles are handled can be set by Administrator. Each site might have multiple categories applied to it.

SmartFilter

Secure Computing

www.securecomputing.com

(800) 379-4944

Blocking

Blocking Controls								
Can Disable Keyword Blocking	Selectively Enable Categories	Blocked Site List is Viewable	Can Add/Remove Sites to Blocked Site List	Can Modify Categorization of URL	Can Add New Categories	Can Block Down to File Level	Warn Versus Block Available	Warn Available for Selective Categories
Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Options for Default Block Page			Other Blocking Issues	
User Notified of Blocked Site	User Provided URL of Blocked Site	Over-ride Option on Block Page	Frequency of Updates to Blocked Site List	Hostnames Resolve to IP Addresses
Yes	Yes, and category causing block	Only in "Coach" mode	2x week	No, but Administrator can disable entry of IP Addresses into browser

Comments on Blocking: There is no password over-ride option when a page is blocked, but unlike any of the other products reviewed, you can choose to "warn" instead of block. The user is provided the URL and the categories triggered by the page and they can then choose to proceed or not (this unique feature is their "coach" feature). Each user or group or users, or workstation or network segment can be set to be coached or blocked, category-by-category. And different block messages and coach messages can be associated with each category. Also, the names of the categories can be changed, another feature unique to SmartFilter.

Accuracy

Score on Should Block	Score on Should NOT Block	Overall Blocking Accuracy
92%	92%	94%

Comments on Accuracy:

SmartFilter

Secure Computing

www.securecomputing.com

(800) 379-4944

Extras

Session Time Outs	Protocol Blocking	Time Restrictions	Integration Notes	Logging and Reporting
No	NNTP	Yes	Multiple Windows and Unix Platforms: MS Proxy and ISA Server, Netscape Proxy Server, Inktomi Traffic Server, Squid Proxy Server, Check Point FireWall-1	Robust, Custom Querying

Comments on Extras: Many report options using Cyfin Reporter that comes with product. Restrictions can be based on hour of the day, days of the week and hours – each category can be set differently.

Web Inspector 5.1.3 Standalone Server

Elron Software

www.elronsw.com

(800) 767-6683

Pricing and Company

Purchase Price	Subscription Rate for 50 Users	Smallest Group License Price	Requires Configuring Each Client	In Use by a Library Somewhere	# People Maintaining Site List	Can Recommend Site List Changes to Company
\$1065	\$255	\$895/25	No		N/A	N/A

Comments on Pricing and Company:

Administration

Install Issues	Uninstall Issues	Runtime Problems	Multiple User Profiles	Profiles Based on NOS	Remote Administration	Downstream Administration	Can Customize Block Page
	N/A	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Comments on Administration: monitors in real-time, can set up for visual or audible alerts

Blocking

Blocking Controls								
Can Disable Keyword Blocking	Selectively Enable Categories	Blocked Site List is Viewable	Can Add/Remove Sites to Blocked Site List	Can Modify Categorization of URL	Can Add New Categories	Can Block Down to File Level	Warn Versus Block Available	Warn Available for Selective Categories
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

Web Inspector 5.1.3 Standalone Server

Elron Software

www.elronsw.com

(800) 767-6683

Blocking (continued)

Options for Default Block Page			Other Blocking Issues	
User Notified of Blocked Site	User Provided URL of Blocked Site	Over-ride Option on Block Page	Frequency of Updates to Blocked Site List	Hostnames Resolve to IP Addresses
Yes	No	No	N/A	Yes

Comments on Blocking: The blocking process used by Web Inspector completely relies on analysis that is performed on each page as it is browsed by the end user rather than on pre-existing block lists. Therefore no update to the blocked list from the vendor is necessary.

Accuracy

Score on Should Block	Score on Should NOT Block	Overall Blocking Accuracy

Comments on Accuracy: Web Inspector does not use a pre-defined block list. Each site is categorized on the fly as they are browsed. Over time, a block list is built that is relevant to what is being browsed by users in that environment. The test environment, where each test site was visited momentarily to check if access was allowed, didn't give this product a chance to demonstrate how it would perform over time. Though the product will display offensive pages that have not been categorized, as soon as they are categorized as block-worthy (which will take several seconds at least), the user will be prevented from accessing them. Presumably, this filter would become more and more effective as time went on. In the test environment, most sites were accessible at first, regardless of content, for at least several seconds. Further testing needs to be performed to fairly judge this product's accuracy.

Extras

Session Time Outs	Protocol Blocking	Time Restrictions	Integration Notes	Logging and Reporting
Inactivity time out available	Yes		N/A	Robust

Comments on Extras: Over 100 pre-configured reports

WebSense Enterprise v4.2 for Microsoft Proxy Server

WebSense, Inc.

www.websense.com

(800) 723-1166

Pricing and Company

Purchase Price	Subscription Rate for 50 Users	Smallest Group License Price	Requires Configuring Each Client	In Use by a Library Somewhere	# People Maintaining Site List	Can Recommend Site List Changes to Company
	\$1,395	\$1395/50	No	Yes	20-25	Yes

Comments on Pricing and Company: 20% educational discount available as well as multi-year discounts for both Corporate and Educational pricing: 15% discount for a 2-year subscription and 20% discount for 3-year. WebSense is also on the E-Rate schedule.

Administration

Install Issues	Uninstall Issues	Runtime Problems	Multiple User Profiles	Profiles Based on NOS	Remote Administration	Downstream Administration	Can Customize Block Page
Good documentation.	N/A	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Comments on Administration:

Blocking

Blocking Controls								
Can Disable Keyword Blocking	Selectively Enable Categories	Blocked Site List is Viewable	Can Add/Remove Sites to Blocked Site List	Can Modify Categorization of URL	Can Add New Categories	Can Block Down to File Level	Warn Versus Block Available	Warn Available for Selective Categories
Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

WebSense Enterprise v4.2 for Microsoft Proxy Server

WebSense, Inc.

www.websense.com

(800) 723-1166

Blocking (continued)

Options for Default Block Page			Other Blocking Issues	
User Notified of Blocked Site	User Provided URL of Blocked Site	Over-ride Option on Block Page	Frequency of Updates to Blocked Site List	Hostnames Resolve to IP Addresses
Yes	Yes	Yes	Daily	Yes

Comments on Blocking: WebSense uses software to mine the sites and preliminarily categorize them. Depending on the degree of confidence in its categorization, the site may or may not be reviewed by human analysts. One noteworthy aspect of their blocking process is that they recheck sites after a set number of days to verify that the sites haven't changed.

Claim to be able to identify when virtual hosting is in use and can block IP addresses corresponding to a blocked URL when it is possible to do so without blocking other domains.

Administrator can set different categories to Allow, AfterWork or AfterWork/Continue or Block. AfterWork: user can save the blocked link to www.afterwork.com (where WebSense will create a personal bookmark for their use). AfterWork/Continue: user can either go to the blocked site for some number of minutes set by the Administrator or choose AfterWork (see above).

Accuracy

Score on Should Block	Score on Should NOT Block	Overall Blocking Accuracy
92%	92%	90%

Comments on Accuracy:

Extras

Session Time Outs	Protocol Blocking	Time Restrictions	Integration Notes	Logging and Reporting
No	No	Yes	Unix and Windows platforms, see http://www.websense.com/products/integrations/ for extensive list of integration options	Robust, Custom Querying

Comments on Extras: Filtering policies can set up by time of day and day of week. Additional "time restrictions and quotas" are due out in next release.

X-Stop 4.05 for Microsoft Proxy Server

8e6 Technologies

www.8e6technologies.com

(888) 786-7999

Pricing and Company

Purchase Price	Subscription Rate for 50 Users	Smallest Group License Price	Requires Configuring Each Client	In Use by a Library Somewhere	# People Maintaining Site List	Can Recommend Site List Changes to Company
	\$750	\$750/50	No	Yes	15	Yes

Comments on Pricing and Company: 3-year subscription for 50 users: \$1500

Administration

Install Issues	Uninstall Issues	Runtime Problems	Multiple User Profiles	Profiles Based on NOS	Remote Administration	Downstream Administration	Can Customize Block Page
easy install	N/A	None	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

Comments on Administration:

Blocking

Blocking Controls								
Can Disable Keyword Blocking	Selectively Enable Categories	Blocked Site List is Viewable	Can Add/Remove Sites to Blocked Site List	Can Modify Categorization of URL	Can Add New Categories	Can Block Down to File Level	Warn Versus Block Available	Warn Available for Selective Categories
Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No

X-Stop 4.05 for Microsoft Proxy Server

8e6 Technologies

www.8e6technologies.com

(888) 786-7999

Blocking (continued)

Options for Default Block Page			Other Blocking Issues	
User Notified of Blocked Site	User Provided URL of Blocked Site	Over-ride Option on Block Page	Frequency of Updates to Blocked Site List	Hostnames Resolve to IP Addresses
Yes	No	No	Daily	No

Comments on Blocking: Changing a site that is blocked to “always allow” requires finding the category it is in.

Accuracy

Score on Should Block	Score on Should NOT Block	Overall Blocking Accuracy
100%	85%	90%

Comments on Accuracy:

Extras

Session Time Outs	Protocol Blocking	Time Restrictions	Integration Notes	Logging and Reporting
	FTP	Yes	Server Add On Products for: Checkpoint Firewall, Lucent Managed Firewall, Microsoft Proxy and ISA Server, Raptor Firewall, Volera Excelerator. Also have stand-alone client products for Windows 95,98 and NT. And offer an internet appliance version.	Some Extras

Comments on Extras:

Conclusion

The goal of this analysis is to provide the reader with the ability to determine whether filtering is a method of managing Internet access that is suitable for the Library, and if so, what features to look for. Much of what has been written here builds Karen Schneider's book, A Practical Guide to Internet Filters.²¹ And what was learned during The Internet Filter Assessment Project (TIFAP) that forms the basis of her book.

As the filter programs get upgraded from version X to version Y and some filter companies go out of business while others emerge, The InFoPeople Project hopes to keep Librarians informed. At the very least, this interim report will be supplementing with information about additional programs not yet reviewed. InFoPeople may also establish an ongoing filter update page on the InFoPeople website containing information about filtering product features, filtering industry changes and anything else that could affect your decision about using filtering products in the library.

Your feedback to this interim report is strongly encouraged. Address your comments to Lori Ayre at LBAyre@galecia.com.

²¹ Karen G. Schneider, A Practical Guide to Internet Filters, Neal-Shuman Publishers, New York, 1997. At the very least, read the chapter entitled "Planning to Purchase a Filter."

Appendix A: Each Product's Content Categories

The following lists are the Internet content categories for each of the evaluated products. These are the categories you, as Administrator, use to make your Internet filtering policies.

When provided, I have included descriptions and examples for each category.

I have attempted to cut and paste these lists from the web, when available, and from their published manuals when the categories were not available on the web.

I have not modified the text in any way, though I have had to change the formatting in some cases.

CyberPatrol

Category Definitions - 1/20/99

Any on-line content that contains more than 3 instances in 100 messages or any easily accessible pages with graphics, text or audio that fall within the definition of the categories below will be considered sufficient to place the source in that category.

Internet sites that contain information or software programs designed to hack into filtering software, including Cyber Patrol, are added to the CyberNOT list in ALL categories as a measure of protection for the parents, educators and businesses that rely on Cyber Patrol to screen Internet content.

Violence/Profanity

Violence: pictures exposing, text or audio describing extreme cruelty, physical or emotional acts against any animal or person that are primarily intended to hurt or inflict pain. Profanity: is defined as obscene words or phrases, either audio, text or pictures.

Partial Nudity

Pictures exposing the female breast or full exposure of either male or female buttocks except when exposing genitalia. The Partial Nudity category does not include swimsuits (including thongs).

Full Nudity

Pictures exposing any or all portions of the human genitalia.

Please note: The Partial Nudity and Full Nudity categories do not include sites containing nudity or partial nudity of a non-prurient nature. For example: web sites for publications such as National Geographic or Smithsonian Magazine or sites hosted by museums such as the Guggenheim, the Louvre, or the Museum of Modern Art.

Sexual Acts

Pictures, descriptive text or audio of anyone or anything involved in explicit sexual acts and/or lewd and lascivious behavior, including masturbation, copulation, pedophilia, intimacy involving nude or partially nude people in heterosexual, bisexual, lesbian or homosexual encounters. Also includes phone sex ads, dating services, adult personal ads, CD-ROM's and videos.

Gross Depictions

Pictures, descriptive text or audio of anyone or anything which are crudely vulgar or grossly deficient in civility or which show scatological impropriety. Includes such depictions as maiming, bloody figures, autopsy photos or indecent depiction of bodily functions.

Intolerance

Pictures or text advocating prejudice or discrimination against any race, color, national origin, religion, disability or handicap, gender, or sexual orientation. Any picture or text that elevates one group over another. Also includes intolerant jokes or slurs.

Satanic/Cult

Satanic material is defined as: Pictures or text advocating devil worship, an affinity for evil, or wickedness. A cult is defined as: A closed society, often headed by a single individual, where loyalty is demanded, leaving may be punishable, and in some instances, harm to self or others is advocated. Common elements may include: encouragement to join, recruiting promises, and influences that tend to compromise the personal exercise of free will and critical thinking.

Drugs/Drug Culture

Pictures or text advocating the illegal use of drugs for entertainment. Includes substances used for other than their primary purpose to alter the individual's state of mind, such as glue sniffing. This category does not include material about the use of illegal drugs when they are legally prescribed for medicinal purposes (e.g., drugs used to treat glaucoma or cancer).

Militant/Extremist

Pictures or text advocating extremely aggressive and combative behaviors, or advocacy of unlawful political measures. Topics include groups that advocate violence as a means to achieve their goals. Includes "how to" information on weapons making, ammunition making or the making or use of pyrotechnics materials. Also includes the use of weapons for unlawful reasons.

Sex Education

Pictures or text advocating the proper use of contraceptives. This topic would include condom use, the correct way to wear a condom and how to put a condom in place. Also included are sites relating to discussion about the use of the Pill, IUDs and other types of contraceptives. In addition to the above, this category will include discussion sites on how to talk to your partner about diseases, pregnancy and respecting boundaries. The Sex Education category is uniquely assigned; sites classified as Sex Education are not classified in any other category. This permits the user to block or allow the Sex Education category as appropriate, for example, allow the material for an older child while restricting it for a younger child.

Note: Not included in the category are commercial sites that sell sexual paraphernalia. These sites are typically found in the Sex Acts category.

Questionable/Illegal & Gambling

Pictures or text advocating materials or activities of a dubious nature which may be illegal in any or all jurisdictions, such as illegal business schemes, chain letters, copyright infringement, computer hacking, phreaking (using someone's phone lines without permission) and software piracy. Also includes text advocating gambling relating to lotteries, casinos, betting, numbers games, on-line sports or financial betting, including non-monetary dares and "1-900" type numbers.

Alcohol & Tobacco

Pictures or text advocating the sale, consumption, or production of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products, including commercial sites in which alcohol or tobacco products are the primary focus. Pub and restaurant sites featuring social or culinary emphasis, where alcohol consumption is incidental are not in this category.

Note: Web sites that post "Adult Only" warning banners advising that minors are not allowed to access material on the site are automatically added to the CyberNOT list in their appropriate category.

i-Gear

Predefined Lists

A number of predefined Content Category Lists are included with I-Gear. URLabs has populated these lists with URLs that contain related subject matter. The following table describes each predefined list and includes sample URLs that are representative of the list content. (If you believe the URLs shown here are incorrectly categorized, please contact URLabs Support Services.)

List Description

Crime: Sites providing instructions on performing criminal activities or acquiring illegal items, including defeating security, disabling, or otherwise interfering with computer systems (hacking or cracking); unauthorized use of telephone or communications equipment to place free calls or charge another's account for calls (phreaking); deactivating copy protection or registration schemes of software or hardware systems (pirating and warez); construction and usage of munitions such as pipe bombs, letter bombs, and land mines; and lock picking, spying, or general subterfuge and defeating of security measures.

> <http://www.2600.com/>

> <http://anarchistscookbook.com/>

Drugs/Advocacy: Sites advocating the legal use of illegal drugs for medical and personal use.

> <http://www.mpp.org/>

> <http://www.norml.org/>

Drugs/Nonmedical: Sites providing information on growth, distribution, and advocacy of drugs for nonmedical use (typically mood altering). Does not include alcohol or tobacco products.

> <http://www.cannabis.com/>

> <http://www.hightimes.com/>

Entertainment/Games: Sites dedicated to games, gaming, game tips, game downloads, interactive games, and multiplayer games.

> <http://www.wizards.com/>

> <http://www.gamesdomain.com/>

Entertainment/Sports: Sites dedicated to professional and amateur sports and sporting vents.

> <http://cnnsi.com/>

> <http://www.espn.com/>

Finance: Sites dedicated to personal finance, banking, stock trading, and wealth accumulation.

> <http://etrade.com/>

> <http://cnnfn.com/>

Gambling: Sites dedicated to promotion of or participation in wagering, gambling, casinos, or lotteries.

- > <http://www.valottery.com/>
- > <http://www.virtualcasino.com/>

Interactive/Chat: Sites providing interactive communication services, such as Webchat, bulletin boards, and IRC.

- > <http://chat.yahoo.com/>
- > <http://www.citylive.com/>

Interactive/Mail: Sites providing interactive electronic-mail services.

- > <http://www.hotmail.com/>
- > <http://www.rocketmail.com/>

Intolerance: Sites advocating intolerance or hatred of a person or group of people.

- > <http://www.rahowa.com/>
- > <http://www.k-k-k.com/>

Job Search: Sites dedicated to job searching, job listings, resume exchanges, and head hunting.

- > <http://www.jobsearch.com/>
- > <http://www.monster.com/>

News: Sites providing news coverage of regional and international events and weather services.

- > <http://cnn.com/>
- > <http://www.weather.com/>

Sex/Acts: Sites depicting or implying sex acts, including pictures of masturbation not categorized under sexual education. Also includes sites selling sexual or adult products.

- > <http://www.cyberos.com/>
- > <http://persiankitty.com/>

Sex/Attire: Sites featuring pictures that include alluring or revealing attire, lingerie and swimsuit shopping, or supermodel photo collections but do not involve nudity.

- > <http://www.victoriassecret.com/>
- > <http://www.bikini.net/>

Sex/Nudity: Sites featuring pictures of exposed breasts or genitalia that do not include or imply sex acts. Includes sites featuring nudity that is artistic in nature or intended to be artistic, including photograph galleries, paintings that may be displayed in museums, and other readily identifiable art forms. Includes nudist and naturist sites that contain pictures of nude individuals.

- > <http://www.artcreate.com/photo/body/>
- > <http://www.bareboating.com/>

Sex/Personals: Sites dedicated to personals, dating, escort services, or mail-order marriages.

- > <http://www.one-and-only.com/>
- > <http://www.datingline.com/>

SexEd/Advanced: Sites providing medical discussions of sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis, gonorrhea, and HIV/AIDS. May include medical pictures of a graphic nature. Includes sites providing information of an educational nature on pregnancy and family planning, including abortion and adoption issues.

Also includes sites providing information on sexual assault, including support sites for victims of rape, child molestation, and sexual abuse. Includes sites providing information and instructions on the use of birth control devices. May include some explicit pictures or illustrations intended for instructional purposes only. May include slang names for reproductive organs or clinical discussions of reproduction.

- > <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/>
- > <http://www.immunet.org/>

SexEd/Basic: Sites providing information at the elementary level about puberty and reproduction. Includes clinical names for reproductive organs (e.g., penis).

- > <http://contraception.net/>
- > <http://www.mum.org/>

SexEd/Sexuality: Sites dealing with topics in human sexuality. Includes sexual technique, sexual orientation, cross-dressing, transvestites, transgenders, multiple-partner relationships, and other related issues.

- > <http://www.youth.org/>
- > <http://www.inetnorth.ab.ca/users/>

[CherylBB/](#)

Violence: Sites depicting or advocating violence, including sites promoting violent terrorist acts against others that do not fall under the “Intolerance” category.

- > <http://www.usapublications.com/>
- > <http://www.shotgunvideo.com/>

Weapons: Sites that display, sell, or advocate the use of weapons, including guns, knives, and martial-arts weaponry.

- > <http://www.nra.org/>
- > <http://www.shooters.com/>

Allow: Historical default list for sites to which access is to be permitted. This list is empty when I-Gear is initially installed.

Deny: Historical default list of sites to which access is to be denied. This list is empty when I-Gear is initially installed.

Two versions of each predefined Content Category List exist in I-Gear: a local version and the version populated by URLabs. The local version of each list is provided so that you can add additional URLs to various lists as necessary.

iPrism™ Category Descriptions

Adult Themes: Sites that have adult themes are those that are associated with the following concepts: Adult oriented entertainment that may include graphically explicit material, strip clubs, adult nightclubs, prostitution guides, escort services, personals and dating.

Alcohol/Tobacco: These are sites that support the use of tobacco and alcohol products.

Alt/New Age: These are sites relating to the advocacy and/or information pertaining to the occult, astrology, ESP, similar forms of telepathy, fortune telling, out-of-body experiences, magic, spirituality, UFOs and mind altering practices.

Anonymizer: These are sites that allow the user to surf the net anonymously. Also, sites that allow the user to send anonymous email would fall into this category.

Art/Culture: Virtual art galleries and other cultural topics will be contained within this category. Examples of this include museums, country customs, architecture, classical music, contemporary and fine art.

Business to Business Shopping: Sites that have items that will be beneficial to normal business operation.

Computer Hacking: Any site promoting questionable or illegal use of equipment and/or software to hack passwords, create viruses, gain access to other computers, and so on.

Consumer Shopping: Internet malls, online auctions, department stores, retail stores, on-line company catalogs, consumer-oriented on-line shopping, clothing, accessories, appliances, pets, etc, will fit into this category.

Continuing Education/Colleges: Sites that offer formal courses of study for adults. Examples of this category are college homepages, distance education programs , degree programs, vocation and adult education.

Cult: Any site that advocates or discusses information relating to the use or membership of cults.

Discussion Forums: Any site which allows non-realtime user interaction and pertains to the following: Usenet news, bulletin boards, newsgroups, etc.

Drugs: Any site that is related to the use, legalization or advocacy of illegal drugs is included in this category. Also, sites that offer drug paraphernalia or advocate the use of legal drugs for recreational purposes.

Email Host: Sites that provide email accounts, free or otherwise. Sites pertaining to anonymous e-mail are not included here, they are contained in the Anonymizer category listed above.

Entertainment: Sites that provide information about movies, television, radio, music, amusement parks, etc. Personal pages of movies/t.v. shows, books, theater, magazines humor/jokes and sites containing downloadable software of an entertaining nature also belong in this category.

Extremism/Intolerance: Any site advocating militant or extremist groups, extreme political views, intolerance to individuals and/or groups based upon discriminating or racial distinctions belong in this category.

Family Issues: Any site that deals with the following: Divorce, adoption, parenting, marriage, domestic violence, child abuse, father's rights, child custody, etc. Also included in this category are sites that offer counseling to the above examples.

Finance: Any site providing information about investments, stocks, bonds and mutual

funds. Also included are sites about loans, mortgages, insurance, futures, options, estate/asset/retirement planning, taxes, bankruptcy, etc.

Gambling: Any site that presents information about gambling for the purpose of advocating its practice or providing instruction on any gaming activity that involves gambling.

Games: Traditional board games, role-playing games, online gaming and game makers would fit into this category. Also, sites that provide advice and "cheat codes" for playing computer games would be included in this category.

Government: Any country-owned site containing information about governments and their militaries.

Health: Any site that has content relating to health. These could include sites that claim to improve an individual's well being either medically or through support. Also, included in this category are hospitals, clinics, HMOs, etc,

High Bandwidth: Sites that take up a significant amount of bandwidth. Examples of these are MP3 sites, videoconferencing, download sites for software/games, streaming audio/video sites like REAL AUDIO or QUICK TIME.

History: Any site that offers a systematic, written and methodical record of important events which concern a community of people.

Hobbies/Interest: Any site pertaining to the pursuits or interests outside one's regular occupation. Examples of this would include pet lover sites, sewing, cooking/recipes, model building/making, wood craving, stamp/coin collecting, mountain biking, hiking, etc.

Job/Employment Search: Sites that provide job/employment services. Temp agencies, career resources and resume services would also be included in this category.

K12: Sites in this category are those belonging to schools from elementary through high school.

Liberal Arts: Sites that deal with the general study of: english, philosophy, literature, economics, languages, psychology, social and environmental studies, visual and performing arts.

Lingerie/Bikini: Sites containing images of individuals in bikinis or lingerie that are not displayed in a pornographic way.

Misc. Questionable: This category contains sites that are considered questionable in nature and may involve illegal activities.

News: On line newspapers. headline news, news wire services and mainstream publications are included in this category. Usenet news and other types of newsgroups are not contained in this category, the fall into the Discussion Forum category.

Nudity: Sites that fit within this category are those that provide images or representations of nudity. They may be in any artistic or non-artistic form.

On-Line Chat: Any site that offers access to or software for the participation in any internet chat forum.

On-Line Chat: Any site that offers access to or software for the participation in any internet chat forum.

Politics: Any sites promoting or containing information on any political party, pro or con.

Pornography: This category covers anything relating to pornography, including mild depiction, soft pornography or hardcore pornography. Pornography pertains to writings, photographs, movies, etc, intended to arouse sexual excitement.

Profanity: Sites that contain profanity of any kind are in this category.

Professional Services: Sites that provide technical and business professional services. Example include consulting firms, legal Services, accounting services, and information technology staffing.

Religion: Sites within this category pertain to mainstream religion, religious activities or participation.

Safe Search Engine: Sites in this category would contain search engines for families and children. Safe search engines will not allow the user to search for pornography, profanity,

etc. These sites are exclusive to this category and not contained in the Web Search category.

Science and Technology: Sites related to science and technology would fall into this category. Examples of these are astronomy, math, physics, agriculture, chemistry, and programming sites. Scientific and technical journals, encyclopedias or other reference materials that deal with science and technology will also fall in this category.

Sex Ed K-12: Sites relating to sex education that deal with topics acceptable to the elementary through high school years. Information within these sites may be minimal in nature as in technical journals, dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference materials.

Sex Ed grade 13+: This category contains sex education topics of a more adult nature.

Sexuality: Sites that provide information, images or implications of bondage, sadism, masochism, fetishes, beating, body piercing or self-mutilation.

Shareware Downloads: Sites where software can legally be downloaded for free or trial purposes.

Social Issues: These are sites that contain information regarding issues that are considered controversial to society. Examples of these are abortion, euthanasia, gun control, drug legalization, suicide, immigration and civil/human rights.

Specialized Shopping: Sites that sell a specific item or product.

Sports: Any site that contains news and information about athletes, sports teams or scores.

Tasteless: Sites within this category are those that contain information about or depictions of mutilation, torture, horror, grotesque and/or any other behavior that may be considered inappropriate for public audiences.

Travel: Travel and travel related activities would fall into this category. Reservation services, discount travel listings, leisure travel package listings, special events in various cities, and sightseeing guides are all examples of sites in this category.

Violence: Sites that contain visual representations or invitations to participate in a violent act. This may include war, crime, pranks, hazing, etc.

Weapons/Bombs: Any site promoting questionable or illegal use of weapons or bombs. Sites that contain plans to make bombs and/or pyrotechnics would fall into this category.

Web Search: Sites that provide searching and/or categorization of internet resources through the use of keywords. Sites that fall into this category are not contained in the Safe Search Engine category.

Web Host: Sites that offer web-hosting services, free or otherwise.

Web Banners: As a service, sites whose primary purpose is to provide banner ads for other web sites.

Examples that would be included in this category are:

<http://www.doubleclick.com>

<http://www.linkexchange.com>

Primary Filtering Categories

Adults Only

Material labeled by its author or publisher as being strictly for adults. Examples: "Adults only", "You must be 18 to visit this site", "Registration is allowed only for people 18 or older", "You must be of legal drinking age to visit this site"

Examples:

<http://www.riddler.com/>

<http://www.rights.org/deathnet/AS.html>

<http://www.match.com/>

Hate/Discrimination

Hate/Discrimination refers to sites that specifically target a group of people based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or ethnicity in a hateful, derogatory manner. The language of these sites often uses racial slurs and is insulting, vilifying and sometimes violent.

Examples:

<http://www.stormfront.org/>

<http://www.godhatesfags.com/>

<http://www.whitepride.com/>

Illegal

Material that promotes, or offers instructions or advice that can be used to commit illegal activities. Such activities include child pornography, bomb making, breaching computer security (hacking), breaching of phone security or phone service theft (phreaking), lock picking, selling pirated material (such as music, videos, software/"warez," or fake IDs), and counterfeiting.

Examples:

<http://darron.net/family/think/stealthisbook.html#2.08.5>

<http://come.to/anarchy/>

<http://www.erowid.org/archive/hyperreal/drugs/>

Pornography

Material intended to be sexually arousing or erotic. This includes photos, animation, cartoons, fan-fiction and other written stories.

Examples:

<http://www.clublove.com/>

<http://www.porno.com/>

Sex

Descriptions or depictions of sexual acts, specifically those without the intent to arouse. Sexual merchandise and fetish sites will also fall under this category.

Examples:

<http://www.nmt.edu/~kscott/purity/>

<http://www.adamandeve.com/>

<http://www.geocities.com/~zeetee/>

Violence

Violence includes graphic images or written descriptions of wanton violence or grave injury (mutilation, maiming, dismemberment, etc.). This includes graphically violent games.

Examples:

<http://www.angelfire.com/wa/mickfoley83/>

<http://www.deathnet.com/>

Secondary Filtering Categories

Alcohol

Alcohol refers to sites that advocate or promote the recreational use of alcoholic beverages. These can include but are not limited to drink mixes, home-brew recipes, and drinking games.

Examples:

<http://www.realbeer.com/>

<http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/cariadoc/drinks.html>

Chat

Chat pertains to sites that offer access to online chat-rooms or download-able chat software. Such chat-rooms and software enable users to converse online by posting and receiving real-time messages.

Examples:

<http://www.talkcity.com/>

<http://www.chatplanet.com/>

<http://www.icq.com/>

Drugs

This includes sites that promote or advocate recreational use of any drug. These are not limited to controlled substances. Some examples are: meth labs, growing/buying/selling marijuana, glass pipes/bongs, and mixing a legal substance with alcohol, various forms of fume inhaling.

Sites that promote or advocate recreational use of prescription drugs also apply.

Examples:

<http://www.hightimes.com/>

<http://ecstasy.org/>

Free Mail

Sites that offer e-mail accounts over the Web for free. Such sites can expose users to harmful content delivered via e-mail file attachments. Filtering such sites also helps to enforce local acceptable-use policies when e-mail is already provided locally to users.

Examples:

<http://www.hotmail.com/>

<http://www.rocketmail.com/>

<http://mail.yahoo.com/>

Free Pages

Sites where home page space is offered for free. Although many of these Free Home Page providers post rules and regulations for their users' content, historically they do not adequately monitor these pages. There is often capricious abuse of these services by users who post offensive content under multiple pseudonyms, making them difficult to track. Individual pages that have been reviewed by N2H2 on such sites are removed from this category, but filed under other categories as necessary.

Examples:

<http://www.geocities.com/neighborhoods/>

<http://www.angelfire.com/>

Gambling

Gambling refers to on-line gambling sites where you must place a bet with the use of a credit card with the expectation of winning a prize.

Examples:

<http://www.intercasino.com/>

<http://www.luckyrollcasino.com/index2.html>

<http://www.casinolee.com/>

Tasteless/Gross

This includes content such as tasteless humor, excretory functions (vomiting, urinating, defecating, etc.) graphic medical or accident photos (containing blood or wounds) and some extreme forms of body modification (cutting, branding, genital piercing).

Examples:

<http://www.contrib.andrew.cmu.edu/~jp45/Tasteless1.html>

<http://www.doodie.com>

Lingerie

Sites that provide photos of models wearing Lingerie, underwear, or otherwise scant attire.

Examples:

<http://www.lovelyvisionslingerie.com/>

<http://www.victoriassecret.com/>

Message/Bulletin Boards

Sites that permit semi-permanent messages to be posted immediately and read by others. (See also Moderated)

Examples:

http://www.swoon.com/k_forums/forums.html

<http://www.boards.excite.com/boards/>

Nudity

This category includes photos or images of bare or visible genitalia, pubic hair, buttocks, female breasts, etc. This category is exclusive to sites containing nudity that is not pornographic. The Medical and Education exception categories may also apply.

Examples:

<http://carolinafoothills.com/>

<http://www.bodyscapes.com/>

Personal Information

Sites that gather unnecessary personal information that may be used for malicious intent. Such information includes: name, address, credit card number, school, personal schedule, etc.

Profanity

Sites that contain crude, vulgar, or obscene language or gestures. Words used in a context that the Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines as "considered vulgar" or "considered obscene."

Examples:

<http://www.krug.org/scripts/dogs.html>

<http://www.well.com/user/zoodc/bar/>

Murder/Suicide

Murder/Suicide pertains to sites that offer information on committing murder or suicide. Also included are sites that contain death photos such as, crime scenes, autopsies, etc.

Examples:

<http://www.rights.org/deathnet/AS.html>

School Cheating Info

Any site dedicated to the promotion of plagiarism or similar cheating among students by providing term papers, written essays, exam keys, etc.

Examples:

<http://www.schoolsucks.com/>

<http://www.essayxstacy.com/>

Tobacco

Any site advocating or promoting recreational use of tobacco.

Examples:

<http://www.smokers.com/>

<http://www.finckcigarcompany.com/>

Weapons

This includes sites that provide information about buying, making, modifying, and using weapons. Weapons include, but are not limited to guns, knives, swords, ammunitions, etc.

Examples:

<http://www.palousemunitions.com/>

<http://www.cfiarms.com/>

Distraction Categories

Auction

All sites that offer access to online auctions. Online auctions are rarely monitored for content and contain rapidly changing material, potentially exposing users to material that

would otherwise be filtered under other categories, such as PORN, WEAPONS, LINGERIE, VIOLENCE, etc.

Examples:

<http://www.ebay.com/>

<http://auctions.yahoo.com/>

<http://auctions.amazon.com/>

Electronic Commerce

The E-commerce category includes any site that allows users to make online purchases of any commodity. Many E-commerce sites pose a risk to users by offering direct access to commodities that may normally be filtered under other categories, such as Weapons, Profanity, Lingerie, Porn, etc. Some users consider E-commerce sites to be a distraction from their intended productive use of the Internet.

Examples:

<http://www.amazon.com/>

<http://www.cdnow.com/>

Games

The Games category refers to on-line games, computer games, and related information such as cheats, codes, demos, and emulators. Games also applies to contests or role-playing games that can be played on-line. (Games is often used in conjunction with Violence, Chat, or For Kids)

Examples:

<http://www.gamesdomain.com/>

<http://www.ten.net/>

<http://www.zone.com/>

Employment Search

Employment Search pertains to sites that provide job-hunting and related employment resources such as job listings.

Examples:

<http://www.monsterboard.com/>

<http://jobs.genmills.com/>

Jokes

The Jokes category pertains to sites that post jokes, humorous anecdotes, or related humor.

Examples:

<http://www.netfunny.com/>

<http://www.well.com/user/zoodc/bar/>
<http://www.yeeeoww.com/yecch/yecchhome.html>

News

The News category includes sites dealing with material reported in a newspaper, periodical, or a newscast, whether it is current or archived.

Examples:

<http://www.cnn.com/>
<http://www.seattletimes.com/>

Personals

This includes personal advertisements, including mail-order brides, dating services, escort services, pen pals.

Examples:

<http://www.appleagency.com/>
<http://www.match.com/>
http://personals.swoon.com/e_personals/personals.html

Recreation/Entertainment

Sites that provide updated information about various recreation and entertainment such as movie show-times, theater, concerts, local entertainment.

Examples:

<http://www.sidewalk.com/>

Sports

Sites that include updated information about professional and collegiate sports. Such information includes games scores, player status, trades, and commentary.

Examples:

<http://espn.sportszone.com/>
<http://www.nhl.com/>
<http://www.curling.com/>

Stocks

This includes stock trading, stock quotes, stock market information, etc.

Examples:

<http://www.nasdaq.co.uk/>
<http://www.rightstock.com/>

Swimsuits

Sites that contain photos of models in swimwear, especially fashion swimwear photos.

Examples:

<http://www.swimslim.com/>

<http://www.kiana.com/>

Exception Categories

Education

This will allow access to material under another category (such as Sex, Nudity, or Violence) that has educational value (such as classic literature, history, art, sex education, etc.).

Examples:

http://raven.cc.ukans.edu/~kansite/ww_one/photos/death.htm

<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/>

For Kids

This will allow access to sites under another category (such as Games, Message/Bulletin Boards, etc.) that are designed specifically for kids.

Examples:

<http://www.bess.net/>

<http://disney.go.com/>

<http://www.alfy.com/>

History

This will allow access to material that falls under another category (such as Sex or Violence) that is non-fictional and historically significant.

Examples:

http://www.thestarreport.org/ken_starr/index.html

http://raven.cc.ukans.edu/~kansite/WW_one/photos/death.htm

Medical

This will allow access to material under another category (such as Nudity or Tasteless/Gross) that relates to the study or practice of medicine.

Examples:

<http://worldmall.com/erf/autopsy.htm>

<http://fbhc.org/modules/breastcancer.cfm>

Moderated

This will allow access to Message/Bulletin Boards or Chat sites that claim to prevent offensive material from being posted or sent. The author of the site must state this site is moderated.

Examples:

<http://www.christianchat.com/rules.htm>

<http://chat.freezone.com/>

Text/Spoken Only

This will allow access to material under another category that is strictly verbal (i.e. text or spoken word). This can be used, for example, to distinguish written erotica from graphical "Porn" sites.

Examples:

<http://at.nifty.org/nifty/>

S4F

Pornography and Illegal Activity

S4F Technologies' filtering service only blocks those sites with pornographic or recreational nudity, sexually explicit language, or criminal activity.

Criminal activity includes, but is not necessarily limited to, hate speech, wagering, illegal drug promotion, illegal weapons construction/modification/sales, and crime instructions.

SmartFilter

The following is a brief description of all 30 SmartFilter Control List categories. The site file category code appears in parenthesis () next to the category's title.

	<p>Anonymizers/Translators (an)</p> <p>Anonymizers enable anonymous Web browsing through an intermediary to prevent unauthorized parties from gathering personal information. However, anonymizers also allow users access to ANY Web page and bypass blocking software. Language translators that provide input of whole URLs for translation also act like anonymizers. Language translators that translate only TEXT are not blocked. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anonymizer - Type Transaction • anonymizer based translation sites
<p>Art Exhibits Artists Art History</p>	<p>Art and Culture (ac)</p> <p>This category contains virtual art galleries and other cultural topics, such as museums and country customs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Jazz Art Gallery - Contemporary art • Cartoon Factory Animation • A lesson in Native American Funeral Rituals
<p>Chat Rooms Topics Message Boards</p>	<p>Chat (ch)</p> <p>This category contains Web-based chat groups. Chat rooms allow people to come together online about current events, hot topics, and common interests. This category also includes forums, message boards, discussion groups, guest books that allow threads, and sites for CHAT software downloads. This category includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk City • The Chat Room Directory
<p>Bomb Making Burglary Murder</p>	<p>Criminal Skills (cs)</p> <p>This category contains sites that either provide instructions for or identify methods to promote, encourage, or provide the skills to commit illegal, criminal activities. These include bomb-making, lock picking, computer</p>

	<p>hacking, burglary, murders, rapes, and so on. This category includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stalking Page • Lock Picking for Beginners • Hacking groups
All Cults The Occult Satanism	<p>Cults/Occult (oc)</p> <p>This category includes any URLs with topics about the occult, cults and other extremist views, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occult supplies • Satanic Publications - Guide to satanism • The First Church of Commonsense
Personal Ads Dating Services Dating Discussions	<p>Dating (mm)</p> <p>This category covers dating and relationship topics, such as listings of personal advertisements, tips for attracting a companion, introductions to potential foreign spouses, and online dating services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About.com's People/Relationships section – Dating • Callgirlscorts -- Escorts/Call Girls • Together Dating – One of the original online dating services • Shy Man's Guide to Success with Women
Marijuana Cocaine LSD	<p>Drugs (dr)</p> <p>Sites in this category provide information on the purchase, manufacturing, and use of illegal or recreational drugs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freespeech.org – Drug/Marijuana archive • FYI - recreational Drugs -- The Cocaine Tester's Handbook <p><i>Note: The drugs category does not include sites that relate to prescription drugs.</i></p>
Movies TV Hobbies	<p>Entertainment (et)</p> <p>The entertainment category includes URLs devoted to movies, television, music, hobbies, clubs, and amusement parks. These sites can either be fan-club style (for example, the Brad Pitt fan club) or sponsored by a company (for example, Warner Bros.). This category also includes personal pages of movies and TV shows. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Movie Database

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hollywood On-line - Information, photos, and movie reviews • Aunt Annie's Craft Page
Bondage Excessive Violence Mutilation	<p>Extreme/Obscene/Violence (ex)</p> <p>The extreme category includes URLs that may fall into other categories, but push the limits of acceptability. These URLs are typically extremely violent, gory, or horrific in nature and may be related to sex, bodily functions, obscenity, or perverse activities. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Butt Page – Rectal foreign body page • Bondage • Pornographic rape, violence, bestiality
Bingo Bookmaker Lottery Pages	<p>Gambling (gb)</p> <p>The gambling category contains URLs that encourage betting money or items on the outcome of games and contests. It includes sites offering gaming, bookmaker odds, lottery pages, and bingo, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-line Betting • The New York Lottery Page
Backgammon Dungeons & Dragons Chess	<p>Games (gm)</p> <p>This category consists of URLs whose focus is traditional board games, and role-playing games such as Battleship and Dungeons and Dragons. The category also includes video and online games, game reviews, and any URLs that promote game makers such as Mattel. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hasbro Toys • Battleship • Interactive WWW Games
Newspapers Journals Magazines	<p>General News (nw)</p> <p>The general news category applies to most online news and mainstream trade publications, such as business, trade, and medical journals, as well as high school and university newspapers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wall Street Journal • JAMA • USA Today

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNN
Racism Anti-Semitism Sexism	Hate Speech (hs) <p>This category is dedicated to any sort of propaganda that would encourage the oppression of a specific group of individuals. This includes such things as derogatory speech against women, minorities, and the disabled. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aryan Nations • National Socialist Movement • Did Six Million Really Die?
Jokes Comic Pages Comedy Clubs	Humor (hm) <p>The humor category includes sites that intend to be comical or funny. These sites include general jokes, comic pages, and comedy clubs. An example is the Dilbert site at www.unitedmedia.com/comics/dilbert. Some other examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ComedyNet • College Humor Page
Stocks Discount Brokers Money Forums	Investing (in) <p>The investing category includes sites that deal with personal investments and investment options. URLs in this category may contain stock quotes, money management forums, online publications, discount brokerage services, trading stock/mutual funds, portfolio set up, and more. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prudential Securities • National Discount Brokers On-line
Classified Ads Resume Guides Job Databases	Job Search (js) <p>This rapidly growing category includes anything related to a job search. It encompasses sites concerned with resume writing, interviewing, changing careers, classified advertising, and large job databases. It also includes career development, and individual URLs within otherwise uncategorized sites listing opportunities. For example, many corporate Web pages also list the company's job openings. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HeadHunter – Employers, networking, resume writing, job fairs,

	<p>and more</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rensselaer Career Development Center – Career resource, resume book, job database, and more • CareerResume – Online resume writing service
Vegetarianism Gay & Lesbian Naturism	<p>Lifestyle (lf)</p> <p>URLs in this category may contain discussions or material relevant to an individual's personal life, whether it be unique characteristics or orientation. The sites may include such things as straight men's groups, gay and lesbian discussions, senior citizen clubs, transgender issues, vegetarianism, naturism, and more. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Guide to Vegetarianism • The Naturist Society - Promotion of clothes-free lifestyle • Gay Universe - Guide to alternative lifestyles
Adult Humor Tobacco Some Profanity	<p>Mature (mt)</p> <p>This category contains URLs that sell/advertise products you must be over 18 to buy, such as tobacco, alcohol, and firearms. Items also to be rated as mature are adult humor; provocative but not transparent lingerie photos; detailed text and images explaining sexual problems/ products; some adult topics in non-fiction, fiction, poetry and entertainment; and some usage of profanity. Specific examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choice Tobacco • 800 Microbrew • Sex Jokes • Anatomy of the Penis/Mechanics of Intercourse <p><i>Note: This category also includes URLs showing women or men dressed in seductive or sexually suggestive clothing (partially nude or bikini-clad women and men).</i></p>
Music files Music players	<p>MP3 Sites (mp)</p> <p>This category contains URLs that are for downloading, uploading, or trading of MP3 files. Some examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP3 player downloads and resources • Ugo • Napster
Non-pornographic images	<p>Nudity (nd)</p> <p>This category contains URLs that include non-pornographic images of the</p>

Classic sculptures Detailed medical illustrations	<p>bare human body. Classic sculpture and paintings, artistic nude photographs, some naturism pictures, and detailed medical illustrations are included in the Nudity category. Some examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaedas Fine Art – Commercial photography of artistic nudes • Museum paintings • Ceramic Arts/Classical Nudes – Classical nude sculpture
Non-Business Sales Catalogue Sales Market Promotions	<p>Online Sales and Merchandising (os)</p> <p>This category includes any form of merchandise sales or service that benefits the individual only, such as the sale of clothing, accessories, appliances, pets, and more. This may also overlap into other categories such as the sale of sex merchandise, sports memorabilia, and hate speech paraphernalia. It includes market promotions and catalog selling (for instance, LL Bean). This category does not include merchandise or services that may benefit a normal business, such as business and computer supplies and business-to-business selling. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mall of the Internet • NetBuys On-line Shopping Network
Individual Opinion Student's Discussions	<p>Personal Pages (pp)</p> <p>Personal pages generally are created by two main groups: students; and subscribers to dial-up Internet service providers. Typically, the content in this category relates to the personal or recreational activities, hobbies, and interests of the page's author. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zig's Stray Thoughts Page • Bink's Home Page
Elections Abortion Discussion Religion	<p>Politics, Opinion, and Religion (po)</p> <p>These sites include discussions covering politics, religion, social values, and other non-work-related topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual Spectrum – Discussions of spiritual issues • CARAL – California Abortion and Reproductive Action League
Yahoo AOL Search	<p>Portal Sites (ps)</p> <p>This category includes Web pages that serve as a major starting point for</p>

Engines	<p>users when they get connected to the Web. Examples are Yahoo, Excite, Lycos, CNET, Microsoft Network, AOL.com, and many large Internet Service providers (ISPs). Some services that may be offered by portal sites include a directory of Web sites, a search engine, news, weather information, email, stock quotes, phone and map information, and sometimes Chat rooms, message boards and forums. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfy – Portal for kids • Altavista – Search Engine/Portal • Freeserve – ISP Portal
Diet Nutrition Herbal Remedies	<p>Self-Help (sh)</p> <p>This category includes anything that will improve an individual's well-being. Sites may provide information on new medications, medically related sex or drug therapies, or support groups. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the Dietitian™ - Advice on health and diet questions • DivorceCare - Support for divorcees • TeenHelp - Provides information to help your teen on drugs
Pornography Sex Discussions	<p>Sex (sx)</p> <p>This category contains URLs that reference, discuss, or show pornography, including pictures, videos, or text of sex acts, or sexually oriented material. This includes soft- and hard-core pornography, sado-masochism, bestiality, and so on. Some examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PORN USA • Hustler <p><i>Note: In the broader context of cultural norms and individual taste, it may be debatable what is considered sex or pornography or simply a form of entertainment, but in a standard business setting, URLs of this nature are non-business related and are considered unproductive for most employees to view during working hours.</i></p>
Sports Scores Sports Debates Sports Merchandise	<p>Sports (sp)</p> <p>This category includes any topics related to sports, such as: sports teams, sport discussions, sports scores, and sports merchandise. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESPNET Sportzone • SportsLine USA - Sports news, merchandise, contests • AllSports - Features current news, odds, scores, and real-time chat

	with current players and coaches
Reservations City Events Sight-Seeing Guides	<p>Travel (tr)</p> <p>This category includes travel and travel-related activities. Some of the URLs discuss popular travel destinations, travel reservation services, discount travel listings, special events in various cities, and sight-seeing guides. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Travel Network - Reservations, and flight options • 1800FlyCheap - Discount travel • Interactive Travel Guide • Alaska One - Travel guides, parks and recreation
News Groups Web Access	<p>Usenet News (na)</p> <p>The Usenet News category contains sites that provide Web access to Usenet news groups and archives of files uploaded to newsgroups. It does not include any of the alt.sex or alt.binaries sections, since they could contain more than just newsgroup talk. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DejaNews • Real News – Provides Usenet News to individuals, ISPs, corporations, and educational institutions
Email Topics	<p>Webmail (wm)</p> <p>This category contains Web-based e-mail (via HTTP, not IRC). This category includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netscape Webmail • HotMail – Free e-mail • Cool Jargon of the Day

Web Inspector

The default dictionaries are:

- *Executables* — programs or applications
- *FTP* — downloads and uploads
- *Gambling* — gaming terms
- *GOPHER* — any use of the Gopher protocol
- *Movies and Pictures* — .mpeg, .avi, and other multimedia file types
- *News* — Newsgroup or NNTP activity
- *Search Engines* — requests of popular search engines as well as search criteria
- *Sexually Explicit* — list of sexually explicit terms, a default SmartList dictionary
- *Sports* — includes common sports terms and site names
- *Stock Quotes* — detects stock market activity
- *TELNET* — remote access requests

WebSense

The Websense Master Database: Websense Enterprise Version 4

Sites are categorized based on the definitions below. These categories have been broken down to allow organizations to better adjust the level of access they want to give their users. In case of uncertainty, a collaborative decision is made as to whether a site is included, and in what category it is placed. Our database is regularly checked for accuracy and quality.

Suggestions for changes to the database may be submitted through our [Suggest a URL form](#).

This list also available in:

- [Español](#)
- [Deutsch](#)
- [Français](#)
- [Português](#)

Please note:

Categories are tools. Like other tools, they are made to be used for particular purposes. When they are separated from those purposes, or turned to purposes for which they were not intended, they often are less useful and sometimes may be misunderstood.

The categories used by Websense Inc. to sort out the millions of Websites on the Internet have been designed to collect together in useful groupings the kinds of sites of interest and concern to its subscribing customers. They are not intended to characterize any site or group of sites or the persons or interests who publish them, and they should not be construed as doing so. Likewise, the labels attached to Websense categories, necessary aspects of the tool, are convenient shorthand and are not intended to convey, nor should they be construed as conveying, any opinion or attitude, approving or otherwise, toward the subject matter or the sites so classified.

[Premium Group 1 categories are available at an additional cost to Websense Enterprise version 4.2 customers only.](#)

1. Abortion Advocacy

Sites with neutral or balanced discussion of the issues are classified under the main category "Abortion Advocacy."

1.1 Pro-life Sites

1.2 Pro-choice Sites

2. Activist/Advocacy Groups

Sites sponsored by or devoted to organizations that promote change or reform in public policy, public opinion, social practice, economic activities and relationships. Excludes commercially

sponsored sites (4, 13, 21), sites dedicated to electoral politics or legislation (10.2) or to the abortion issue (1), sites advocating hate or violence (16, 19, 28).

3. Adult Material

3.1. Adult Content. Sites featuring full or partial nudity reflecting or establishing a sexually oriented context, but not sexual activity (3.3); sexual paraphernalia; erotica and other literature featuring, or discussions of, sexual matters falling short of pornographic; sex-oriented businesses such as clubs, nightclubs, escort services, password/verification sites. Includes sites supporting online purchase of such goods and services.

3.2 Nudity. Sites offering depictions of nude or seminude human forms, singly or in groups, not overtly sexual in intent or effect.

3.3 Sex. Sites depicting or graphically describing sexual acts or activity, including exhibitionism.

3.4 Sex Education. Sites offering information on sex and sexuality, with no pornographic intent.

3.5 Lingerie & Swimsuit. Sites offering views of models in suggestive but not lewd costume; suggestive female breast nudity. Also classic "cheesecake" art and photography.

4. Business and Economy

Sites sponsored by or devoted to individual business firms, but not supporting ecommerce (21) and not firms engaged in computer or Internet businesses (13) or the sale of alcohol or tobacco (22.1), travel services (26), vehicles (27), or weaponry (29). Includes commercial real estate, but not residential real estate (21.2).

4.1 Financial Data & Services. Sites offering news and quotations on stocks, bonds, and other investment vehicles, investment advice; but not online trading. Includes banks, credit unions, credit cards, and life insurance.

5. Drugs (as characterized by U.S. law)

5.1 Abused Medications. Sites that discuss or promote or provide information about prohibited, scheduled, or otherwise controlled or regulated drugs and their abuse; also, paraphernalia associated with such use and abuse.

5.2 Prescribed Medications. Sites providing information about approved drugs and their medical use.

5.3 Supplements/Unregulated compounds. Sites providing information about or promoting the use of chemicals not regulated by the FDA (as naturally occurring compounds, for example).

6. Education

6.1 Educational Institutions. Sites sponsored by schools and other educational facilities or by faculty or alumni groups, or that relate to educational events and activities.

6.2 Cultural Institutions. Sites sponsored by museums, galleries, theatres (but not movie theatres), and other cultural institutions.

7. Entertainment

Sites that provide information about or promote motion pictures, non-news radio and television, books, humor, music, and magazines (other than those devoted primarily to adult material (3), business (4), electronic games (9), information technology (13), alcohol and tobacco (22.1), health (11), hobbies (22.5), sports (24), travel (26), vehicles (27), or weaponry (29)).

7.1 MP3. Sites that support downloading of mp3 files or that serve as directories of such sites.

8. Gambling

Sites that provide information about or promote gambling or that support online gambling. Risk of losing money possible.

9. Games

Sites that provide information about or promote electronic games, video games, computer games, role-playing games, or online games, but not board or card games (22.5); also sites that support or host online games. Includes sweepstakes and giveaways.

10. Government

Sites sponsored by government branches or agencies; all levels of government (i.e., *.gov)

10.1 Military. Sites sponsored by military branches or agencies (i.e., *.mil)

10.2 Political Groups. Sites sponsored by or providing information about political parties and interest groups focused on elections or legislation.

11. Health

Sites that provide information or advice on personal health or medical services, health insurance, procedures, or devices, but not drugs (5). Includes self-help groups.

12. Illegal/Questionable

Sites that provide instruction in or promote crime (except computer crime (13.1)) or unethical or dishonest behavior or evasion of prosecution therefore.

13. Information Technology

Sites sponsored by or providing information on computer- and Internet-industry firms.

13.1 Hacking. Sites providing information on or promoting illegal or questionable access to or use of communications equipment and/or software.

13.2 Proxy Avoidance Systems. Sites that provide information on how to bypass proxy server features or to gain access to URLs in any way that bypasses the proxy server.

13.3 Search Engines & Portals. Sites that support searching the Web, news groups, or indices or directories thereof.

13.4. Web Hosting. Sites of organizations that provide hosting services, or top-level domain pages of Web communities.

13.5 URL Translation Sites. Sites that offer online translation of URLs including those that offer online language translation of Web sites by submitting the URL of the target site.

14. Internet Communications

14.1 Web chat. Sites that host Web Chat services, Chat sites via HTTP, on-IRC chat rooms. Home pages devoted to IRC. Sites that offer forums or discussion groups.

14.2 Web-based Email. Sites that host Web-based email. Any Web based email service, either browser or software based.

15. Job Search

Sites that offer information on or support seeking employment.

16. Militancy/Extremist

Sites that offer information on or promote or are sponsored by groups advocating antigovernment beliefs or action.

17. News & Media

Sites that offer current or real-time news, including those sponsored by newspapers, magazines, trade and academic journals, radio and television stations and networks, wire services; but not current financial quotes (4.1) or sports (24).

17.1 Alternative Journals - On-line equivalents to supermarket tabloids or non-mainstream periodicals Note: This category may contain material which is sexual in nature.

18. Premium Group 1

Premium categories available with Websense Enterprise, v4.2. Default category set is "monitor-only" unless purchased.

18.1 Advertisements. Sites that provide advertising servers.

18.2 Freeware/Software Download. Sites whose primary function is to provide freeware software downloads.

18.3 Instant Messaging. Sites that enable instant messaging

18.4 Online Brokerage & Trading. Sites that support active trading of securities and management of investments.

18.5 Pay-to-Surf Sites. Sites that pay for people to surf or pay to email.

19. Racism/Hate

Sites that promote the identification of racial groups, the denigration or subjection of groups (racially identified or otherwise), or the superiority of any group.

20. Religion

20.1 Non-traditional Religions. Sites that provide information on or promote religions not listed in 20.2 and on other unconventional religious or quasi-religious subjects, including cults.

20.2 Traditional Religions. Sites that provide information on or promote Buddhism, Baha'i, Christianity, Christian Science, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Mormonism, Shinto, and Sikhism; also atheism.

21. Shopping

Sites that support online purchasing of consumer goods but not including sexual paraphernalia (3.1), investments (4.1), computer software or hardware (13), supplements (5.3), alcohol and tobacco (22.1), travel services (26), vehicles and parts (27), or weaponry (29). Included are sites exclusively devoted to selling sports or religious goods.

21.1 Internet Auction. Sites that support the offering and purchasing of goods between individuals.

21.2 Real Estate. Sites that provide information on renting, buying and selling residential real estate.

22. Society and Lifestyle

Sites that provide information on matters of daily life, excluding sex (3), entertainment (7), jobs (15), sports (24), and those topics covered in subsections below.

22.1 Alcohol & Tobacco. Sites that provide information on, promote, or support the sale of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, and any associated paraphernalia. Excludes self-help groups like AA, which are in Health.

22.2 Gay & Lesbian Issues. Sites that provide information on or cater to gay and lesbian lifestyles, including those supporting online shopping; but not sexually oriented (3.1, 3.3) or issue-oriented (2).

22.3 Personals & Dating. Sites that promote interpersonal relationships, excluding those of exclusively gay or lesbian appeal.

22.4. Restaurants & Dining. Sites that list, review, advertise, or promote food, catering, or dining services.

22.5 Hobbies. Sites that provide information on or promote private and largely sedentary pastimes, but not electronic, video, or online games (9).

23. Special Events

Sites devoted to a current event that requires separate categorization owing to objectionable content, bandwidth demand, or potential effect on productivity. Some such sites will disappear; others will be reviewed after 90 days for possible reclassification.

24. Sports

Sites that provide information on or promote sports, active games, and recreation.

25. Tasteless

Sites that cannot be categorized elsewhere but offer offensive, grotesque, frightening, lurid, material with no redeeming value.

26. Travel

Sites that provide information on or promote various travel-related services and destinations, including those that support online purchase or reservations.

27. Vehicles

Sites that provide information on or promote vehicles, including those that support online purchase of vehicles or parts.

28. Violence

Sites that provide information on or promote violent activity. Sites containing excessive profanity may be classified here if not under Tasteless (25).

29. Weapons

Sites that provide information on, promote, or support the sale of weapons and related items.

X-Stop

Overview: X-STOP Library Filtering Content

X-Stop uses Direct Address Identification (DAI), blocking only the addresses on our blocked library list. This means we will not block beneficial sites, only undesired sites that we have reviewed and placed on these lists. Our Mudcrawler technology lets X-Stop search the entire Internet daily for hundreds of new objectionable sites. To efficiently find new undesirable sites, X-Stop uses 31 categories in the X-Stop Mudcrawler library. These categories contain URLs for both http and ftp Web sites. The X-Stop library also contains Search Keyword libraries. Each of the 31 categories in the X-Stop Mudcrawler library contains a URL library and a Search Keyword library. The Pornography category, for example, has a URL library containing Web sites like www.playboy.com, and the Search Keyword library will contain keywords related to pornography. Each URL and Search Keyword is placed into the corresponding library.

The following is a current list of the 31 categories in the X-Stop library:

- Alcohol
- Employment
- Magazine
- Self-Help
- Alt. Lifestyles
- News
- Entertainment
- Shopping
- Anarchy
- Financial
- Obscene
- Sports
- Automobile
- Gambling
- Opinion
- Tickets
- Chat
- Games
- Personals
- Travel
- Hate
- Criminal Skills
- Pornography
- Humor
- Web E-Mail
- Cults
- Lifestyle
- Public Proxies
- Web Newsgroup
- Drugs
- R-Rated

With X-Stop 4.5 you can choose from any category in the X-Stop library. You can also block the URL™s and Search Keywords associated with these categories. You have the option to add or remove URL™s and Search Keywords related to these categories.

Appendix B: Filter Test Sites

URL	WHY CHOSEN	TITLE
http://www.suburbia.com.au/tism/cassingles.html	harsh language	Song Title: I Might be a Cunt, But I'm Not a Fucking cunt
http://www.metxxxpage.com/	xxx in domain name	Metallica - Metallicadirect Approved Site with XXX in domain name
http://www.peacefire.org/	anti-filtering	P E A C E F I R E - Vocal Anti Filtering group
http://members.theglobe.com/plexicraft/	anti-gay	Anti-Gay quotes from Dr. Laura moved off her site by another filter tester
http://www.teenwire.com/warehous/articles	body parts	Site for young girls about puberty
http://www.gynob.com/Puberty.htm	body parts	Educational page about puberty
http://www.fetishcentral.com/	sex toys	Fetish Central - Online Store of sex toys but nothing explicit
http://www.hornytoadherpetological.com/	likely search term a kid would use	Horny Toad Herpetological found searching "horny"
http://reza.violated.nu/fuckyou/	hate	Anti godhatesfags.com - Anti-Hate Hate page
http://www.salon.com/sex/feature/2001/02/08/saeki/index.html	erotic illustration	In the Realm of the Senses, article in Salon.com about Saeki, an erotic illustrator from Japan
http://www.zunifetishgallery.com/	art	Zuni Fetishes For Sale
http://www.cs.cmu.edu/Groups/AI/html/air.html	body parts	CMU Artificial intelligence site, found searching "cum"
http://www.theglobe.com/default.taf?flash=true&version=4	subdomain blocking	Legitimate domain but part of it could be considered "offensive"
URL	DESCRIPTION	TITLE
http://free-sex-links.com/	sexually explicit	Free-Sex-Links.com
http://www.eaters.nu/wide_open/	sexually explicit	Nude Pictures
http://www.facials.nu/	portal to porn	Facials
http://www.sexypics.com/	portal to porn	Sexy Pics
http://www.ampland.com/	portal to porn	Ampland XXX Links
http://kak.yoasobitai.com/	portal to porn	Tokyo Girl Network
http://www.bigboobbrothel.com/	sexually explicit	Big Boob Brothel
http://www.carnal.net/	sexual language	Carnal Net
http://www.worldbabe.com/	portal to porn	WorldBabe
http://www.wetcrack.com/	sexually explicit	Wet Crack
http://www.pic-web.com/	portal to porn	Pic Web
http://www.nasty-nymphos.com/	sexually explicit	Nasty Nymphos
www.40andfoxy.com/abb/	sexually explicit	Astounding